

DISARMING THE PUBLIC: California Gun Ban

AMERICAN SURVIVAL GUIDE

The Magazine of Self Reliance

AUGUST 1989 VOL. 11 NUMBER 8
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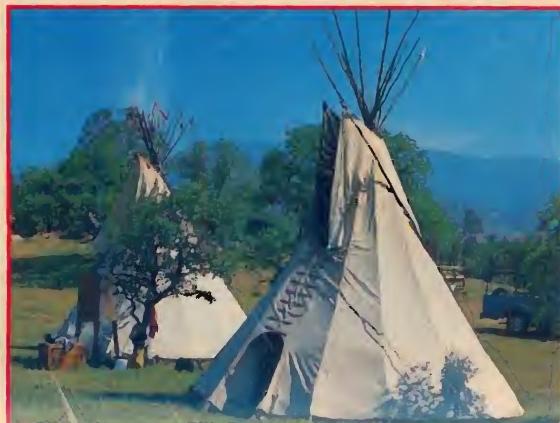
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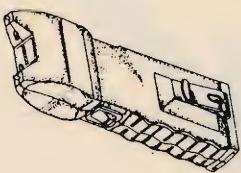
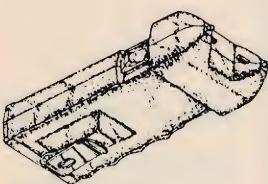


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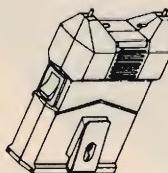
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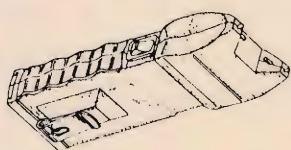
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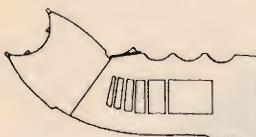
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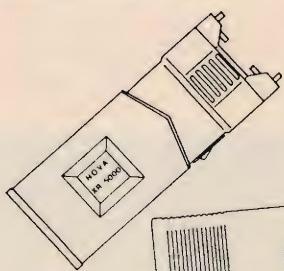
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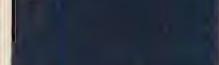
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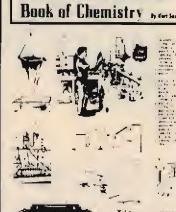
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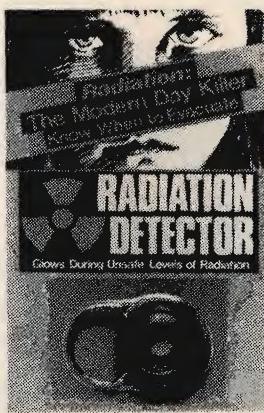


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The Magazine of Self Reliance

AUGUST 1989 VOLUME 11 NUMBER 8

COVER:

The new SPAS-15 dual action 12 gauge shotgun from F.I.E. Firearms Corp. BATF has halted imports of this gun even though its barrel & overall lengths & magazine capacity are identical to other legal shotguns. See page 44 (Photo by Jim Benson).

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TO THE POINT

California gun ban becomes law...

IT'S finally happened. The great gun ban of 1989 has been signed into law here in California.

Some 50 or 60 "assault weapons" are specifically banned after January 1, 1990 and, under a compromise worked out between anti-gun state legislators and our valiant governor, George Deukmejian — our supposedly conservative, supposedly Republican governor who in the past has opposed anti-gun measures, the anti-gun contingent in state government can ban virtually any weapon they deem to be an "assault weapon" whenever they please in the future.

In other words, despite the lies of the anti-gunned, the harsh new gun control law in California makes it possible for state officials to ban many other firearms if they are judged, by a Superior Court here, to be "assault weapons." Popular weapons like the Mini-14 and M1 Carbine are not on the banned list at this writing, but, as one newspaper article put it, if the Mini-14 and M1 "become widely used by criminals, they (law enforcement officials) will push for those weapons to be outlawed."

Those of us who bought the banned semiautomatic military-type firearms before June 1, 1989 may keep them but we have to register them with the state. This, ostensibly, is so law enforcement can "keep track" of them. But I have no doubt the anti-gun fanatics now holding sway in the state Legislature and over our governor plan on legislation in the future to confiscate these weapons. You must register them by Jan. 1, 1991. If you don't and you're caught, the first time you'll be fined about \$500. After than you can get up to three years in prison for having an unregistered assault weapon.

The clear intent behind this harsh new law is to crack down on law-abiding citizens who own guns and, ultimately, to strip them of their guns — a violation of the Second Amendment to the Constitution.

Working behind the scenes during the months-long battle over the anti-gun law was Handgun Control Inc. along with other anti-gun groups and individuals. Their efforts succeeded this

time, thanks to the help of the media hysteria over the illegal use of these weapons by the dreaded drug dealers and street gangs — most of them operating in the ghetto of south-central Los Angeles. And, of course, the media hysteria over the psychopath Patrick Purdy's slayings of five school children and wounding 29 others with his AK-47 earlier this year in Stockton, California.

Public outrage over Purdy's murderous assault on the children at that Stockton elementary school was played upon skillfully by the anti-gun media and politicians and whipped into a hysteria that resulted in the gun ban. The media and our politicians focused on the guns Purdy used to kill the children and finally himself, blaming them for his rampage, and ignoring the fact that he had been charged seven times with felony crimes and all of them had all been downgraded to misdemeanors and he had been let off with little or no punishment by our lenient criminal justice system. They ignored the fact that Purdy was drawing nearly \$700 a month in Social Security benefits for being mentally unbalanced yet was free to work to earn still more money and do whatever he pleased. They ignored the fact that Purdy had tried to kill himself and had been judged a danger to himself and society yet he still passed the background checks done on him and was allowed to purchase guns.

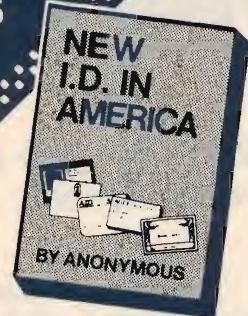
All of the gun-ban votes in the 80-member state Assembly passed by the absolute minimum of 41 votes needed. This is indeed a controversial law.

The voting was mostly along partisan lines, with Republicans mostly opposing the anti-gun bills. A few Democrats voted against the legislation, and a few Republicans voted for it. In the Assembly, two crucial votes supporting the gun ban were repeatedly cast by Republican Assemblymen Charles Quackenbush of San Jose and William Filante of San Rafael. Had these two legislators not thrown their support to the liberal-left, the gun-ban law would not have been passed.

The gun-ban legislation was developed and introduced by state Senate

(Continued on page 71)

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SURVIVAL LINE

Cosmic close call, Soviet lesson on 'gun control,' home schooling gains in North Dakota . . .

IN the May 1989 edition of ASG, Survival Line reported on a proposal by Dr. Edward Teller to use the space-based sensors of a deployed SDI system to detect and track asteroids which might be on a collision course with Earth. Dr. Teller first made this proposal at the end of January before a meeting of scientists at the prestigious George Washington University.

Less than 90 days later, on March 28, an asteroid some half-mile in diameter, travelling at 46,000 miles an hour, missed the Earth by a mere 500,000 miles, just twice the distance from the Earth to the Moon. In cosmic terms it was a dangerously close call.

The near collision with the recently discovered asteroid known as 1989 FC, was the closest the Earth has come to colliding with such an object in 50 years, when another, even larger asteroid, Hermes, missed the Earth by approximately the same distance.

What would have happened if 1989 FC had hit the Earth? The asteroid would have impacted with a force equivalent to 20,000 hydrogen bombs. A city the size of Los Angeles would be leveled. A crater between 5 and 10 miles in diameter, and up to 1 mile deep would have been gouged into the Earth. Debris from such a crater would extend up to 40 miles in all directions. If the asteroid impacted in an ocean, waves of several hundred meters in height could result. These massive waves could devastate coastal areas and wash away many coastal cities.

Scientists have so far detected some 80 asteroids the size of 1989 FC whose orbits put them at risk of colliding with the Earth. Estimates are that there are perhaps as many as 1,000 such asteroids.

The next close passage of asteroid 1989 FC will be in April 1990. Survival Line will keep you apprised.

It Can Happen Here — As gun owners in the United States continue the battle to maintain their constitutionally guaranteed 2nd Amendment rights, a scary example of the real pur-

pose of "gun control" was recently played out in, of all places, the Soviet Union.

Soviet troops were recently sent to the Soviet Republic of Georgia to quell a rising tide of nationalist sentiment and demonstrations sweeping the area. In what should, to the American gun owner, raise an ominous specter, the very first action taken by Moscow's troops was the confiscation of some 66,000 legally registered firearms from the citizens of the Georgian capital city of Tbilisi.

After the confiscation, the troops returned to the job of quashing the demonstrations. In typically brutal fashion, using gunfire and poison gas, the troops killed dozens and wounded hundreds before restoring order.

The events in Tbilisi, and the current gun control hysteria in the U.S. gives that much more meaning to the words of President George Washington, "The very atmosphere of firearms everywhere restrains evil interference; they deserve a place of honor with all that's good."

Teaching At Home — In a major victory for parents and advocates of home schooling, the last state in the nation in which home schooling was illegal, North Dakota, is preparing to legalize the practice. The North Dakota state legislature recently passed a bill which allows parents with college degrees to teach their children at home without state supervision, and parents with high school diplomas to do so with state supervision. The extent and type of supervision has yet to be determined. Gov. George Sinner is expected to sign the bill.

According to the Home School Legal Defense Association there are currently between 600,000 to 800,000 children, almost 1 percent of all school-age children, being taught at home. The Association says that the number of home-taught children is doubling every two years and is expected to reach 5 percent of all school-age children by the year 2,000. ●

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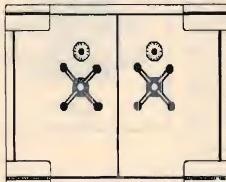
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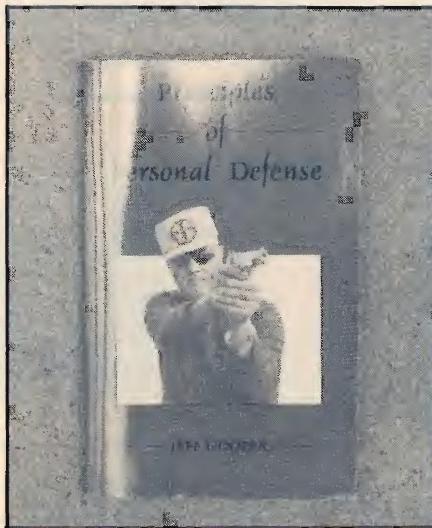
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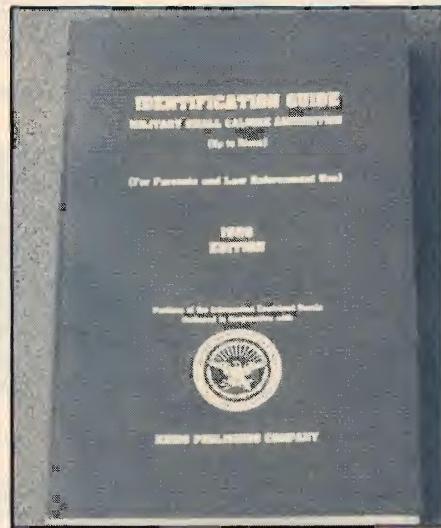


Principles of Personal Defense, by Jeff Cooper; Paladin Press, P.O. Box 1307, Dept. ASG, Boulder, CO 80306; (303) 443-7250; 48 pages, softcover, \$8 plus \$3.50 shipping.

Jeff Cooper discusses the following seven principles that may one day save your life: Alertness, Decisiveness, Aggressiveness, Speed, Coolness, Ruthlessness, and Surprise. With urban attacks on innocent people becoming more and more common, knowing these principles and creating a plan of action could mean the difference between life and death. The "experts" who tell us to not resist for fear of arousing our assailant are dead wrong. Cooper states, "Apart from the odds that you will be killed anyway if you submit to threats of violence, it would seem — especially in today's world of permissive atrocity — that *it may be your social duty to resist...* if you find yourself under lethal attack don't be kind. Be harsh. Be tough. Be ruthless."

Nuclear Weapons Effects, "The Real Story," by Steve R. Quayle; NITRO-PAK Storage Foods, 11018 E. Rosecrans Ave. #300, Dept. ASG, Norwalk, CA 90650; VHS, 35 minutes; \$24.95 plus \$2.25 shipping.

This video was made from a professional slide lecture series and gives the real facts concerning nuclear blast effects and what the long term effects would be. Comparisons are made to volcanic eruptions so the viewer can better understand the differences in various megaton sized explosions. Primary, secondary, and tertiary targets



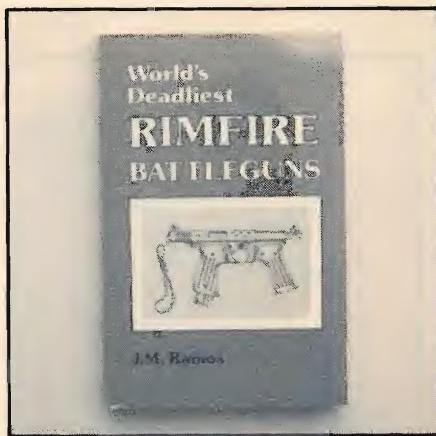
Identification Guide, Military Small Calibre Ammunition, Volume 1 (up to 15 mm), Department of Defense; Rhino Publishing Co., Blue Ridge Research Park, P.O. Box 52, Dept. ASG, Walhalla, SC 29691; (803) 882-0788; 200 pages, softcover; \$29.95 ppd.

This forensic manual identifies nearly all military small arms ammunition manufactured since 1930. The guide covers every country, from Argentina to Yugoslavia, and lists calibers from .17 to .50 caliber (up to 15mm). A good reference book for police departments, law enforcement agencies, cartridge collectors, firearms enthusiasts and gun shop owners. Contains a cartridge headstamp guide that clearly illustrates the identification stamps of over 450 different cartridges.

are pinpointed. Fallout patterns are shown and what effects radiation will have on crops. There is also a look at Soviet civil defense plans. A very informative tape.



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World's Deadliest Rimfire Battleguns, by J.M. Ramos; Paladin Press, P.O. Box 1307, Dept. ASG, Boulder, CO 80306; (303) 443-7250; 184 pages, softcover; \$14 plus \$3.50 shipping.

The .22 LR rimfire round has been the most widely used cartridge in the world for more than a century, fired from countless pistols, rifles and revolvers. In the high-tech eighties, rimfire weapon options are more sophisticated and varied than ever. Combining the latest ultra high velocity magnum rounds with today's fast-firing machine pistols, submachine guns, and assault rifles has produced totally new, revolutionary close-quarter weapon systems. The book is heavily illustrated and covers the world's most sophisticated rimfire weapons from World War II to the present.

Earth Sheltering Starter Kit, by Don Stephens; Stephens Press, P.O. Drawer 1441, Dept. ASG, Spokane, WA 99210-1441; (509) 838-8222; 40 pages, soft cover; \$4 ppd. Full set of Green Papers is \$48 ppd.

This is one from a set of "Green Papers," a collection of over 80 articles dealing with survival topics. The set is ring bound and contains over 200 pages. Don Stephens is a survival retreat consultant. He is an architect who is also a survivalist and has designed many earth-protected survival structures for his clients. The *Earth Sheltering Starter Kit* contains many illustrations and lists the many benefits of building an underground home. Some of these include: secured storage space, rain collection and storage, earth-cooled ventilation, multiple exits and storm protection, and fireproof con-

(Continued on page 69)

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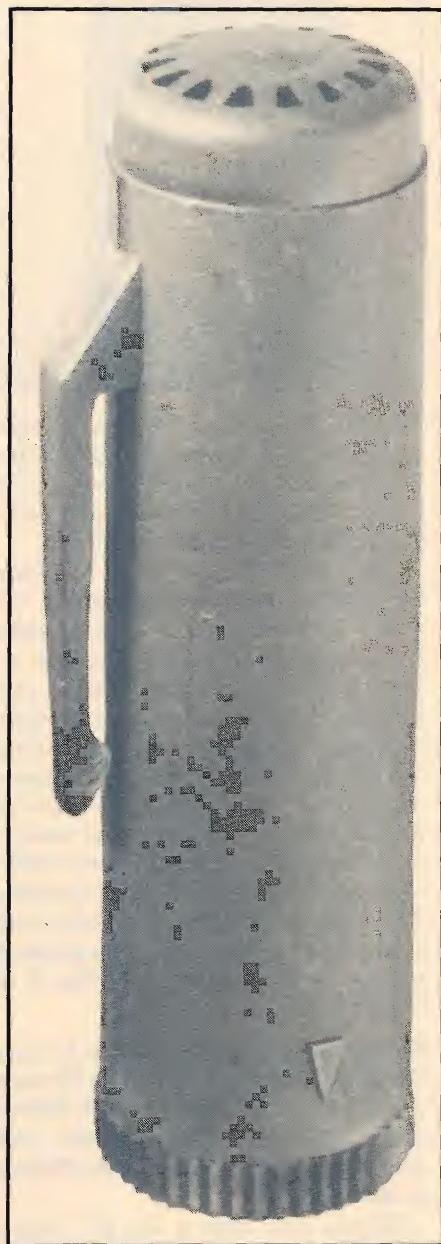
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of both knives is "Zamak," a high grade casting alloy with glass filled nylon scales. The two knives differ only in the handle finishes. Either bright chrome with black scales or black chrome with olive drab scales is available. Sheaths are glass filled nylon and are available in either black or olive drab. Recommended price per knife is \$31.95. Contact C.A.S. Iberia, 7 Jo-Ann Road, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533; (800) 635-9366.



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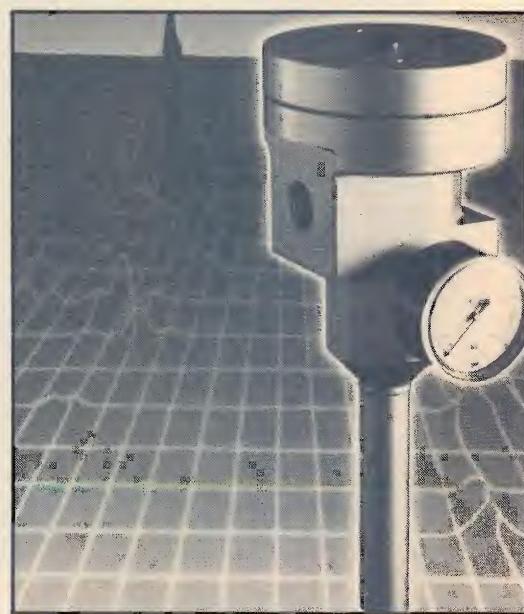
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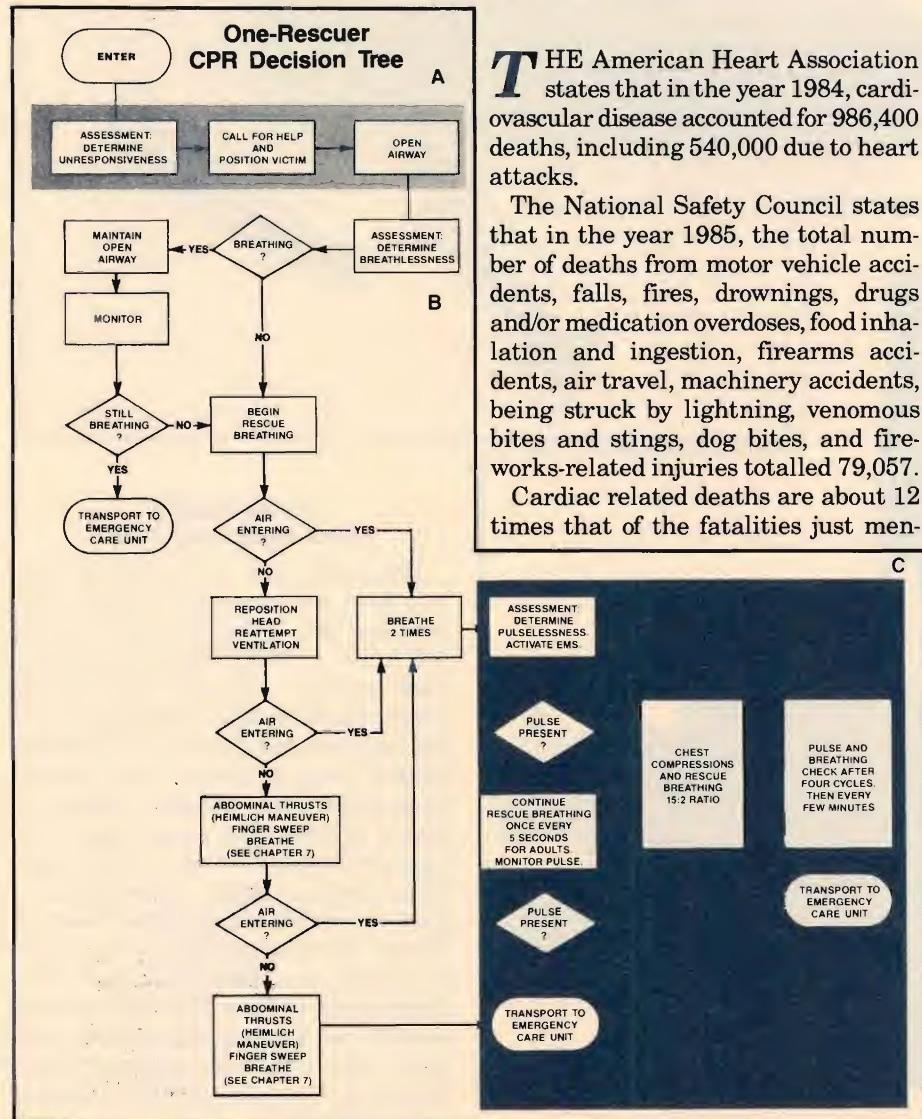
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Handling Cardiac-Related Emergencies

Remember the warning signs and enter the emergency medical services systems as soon as you can...

By Ralph LaPlant



Illustrations reprinted with permission. ©Healthcare Provider's Manual for Basic Life Support. American Heart Association

tioned. With this in mind, let's attempt to identify the risks, prevention, and emergency care needed for these cardiac-related problems.

There are different types of risk factors. Some we can not control, some we can. The ones we have no control over are heredity, sex (gender, not frequency), our race, and our age. Ones that we can control are cigarette smoking, high blood pressure, blood cholesterol levels, and diabetes.

Cigarette smoking is a no no. It is a leading cause of heart disease. Cigarette smokers have a 70 percent greater coronary heart disease death rate than non-smokers. After a few years of quitting smoking, the death rate is nearly as low as those who have never smoked.

High blood pressure effects 1 in 3 adults. High blood pressure can cause added work on the heart, plus the possibility of a stroke. It seems that two of the biggest blood pressure reducers are controlling sodium intake and keeping one's weight where it should be.

Blood cholesterol levels should be drawn to see where they are at. It seems that keeping cholesterol down depends partly on diet. Eating more fish and poultry than red meat helps. Also, cooking food in vegetable oils, using skimmed milk products, eating fewer eggs, and baking, broiling, and roasting foods will help.

The risk of coronary heart disease is twice as high for people with diabetes (three times with women). The known diabetics should watch themselves closely and be aware of the other risk factors mentioned here.

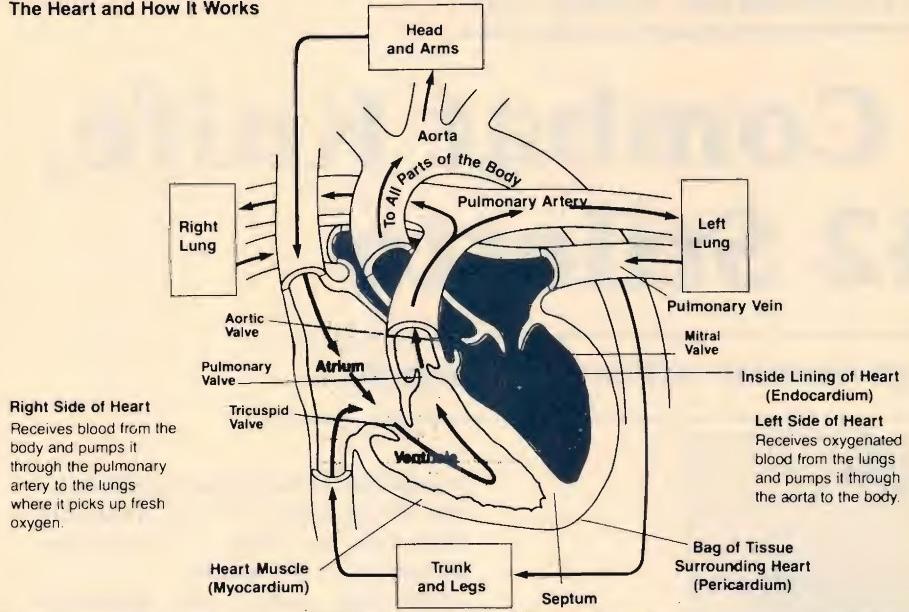
Middle aged men who are significantly overweight are three times at risk of heart disease. It is strongly suggested that anyone who is concerned about their weight and its relationship to heart disease contact their physician for a weight control plan.

Stress can be directly related to other risk factors: high blood pressure, cigarette smoking, and excessive eating.

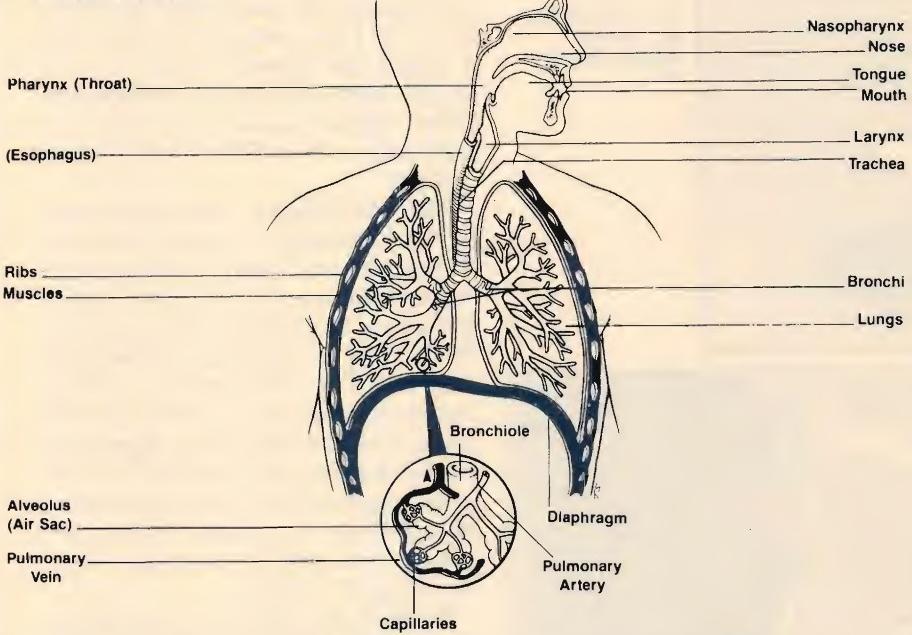
Now that we've discussed the risk factors, let's look at the different coronary problems. The angina attack, the heart attack, the stroke, and the cardiac arrest.

Angina Pectoris, or pain in the chest, is the result of a temporary oxygen need of the heart not being met. It usually follows physical exercise. If the victim rests, the pain will usually go away within two minutes. Chronic angina victims take nitroglycerine, a medication that enlarges the arteries supplying the heart muscle. If this

The Heart and How It Works



The Respiratory System



pain lasts more than two minutes, it should be treated as a heart attack.

The heart attack or myocardial infarction (MI) occurs when the oxygen supply to the heart muscle is diminished and damage to the heart muscle results. Most of these heart attacks occur during rest or sleeping, and only a little less than one-third happen during exercise. The victim will often experience chest pain. This pain can be described as a squeezing, tightness, crushing, burning, heaviness or aching. Again, the pain will usually last longer than two minutes. It can radiate to the neck, shoulders, arms, back, or not radiate at all. There can also be sweating, nausea and fear.

Once the victim recognizes the signs and admits that there is a problem,

the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system should be entered. Dial 911 or whatever number works in your area. Know ahead of time how to enter the system. Have a plan of action.

The victim of a heart attack should stop all physical activity, either by lying down or sitting. Once the Emergency Medical Technicians arrive, they will give the victim oxygen, usually at 10 liters/minute, unless there is a history of chronic lung disease, assure that the victim is comfortable, and transport, usually routinely, unless there are some complications. The last thing a heart attack victim needs is sirens and bouncing around in the back of an ambulance.

Paramedics will attach EKG leads to monitor the electrical activity of the

heart, communicate with a doctor, and possibly administer medications.

The stroke or cerebral vascular accident (CVA) effects about 500,000 people yearly, killing 155,400 of them.

An artery can have a clot form in it in the neck or brain. This can block needed blood supply to the brain. An artery can rupture in the brain. Brain tissue is compressible, blood is not. Damage to the brain can result.

TIA's or trans ischemic attacks are "mini" strokes. They last usually just a few minutes and present themselves with headaches, personality changes, mood swings, clumsiness, numbness, and with difficulty in talking. Even if all the signs of a TIA go away, it is important to seek the care of a physician as this could be the warning of an impending stroke.

The stroke itself shows itself by headaches, inability to speak, one sided numbness, sagging of a corner of the mouth, inability to swallow, and incontinence of urine and/or stool.

If these symptoms last more than 30 seconds and can not be explained, enter the EMS system. Make the victim comfortable, assuring that the airway (the passageway the air takes to get to the lungs) is opened. The stroke victim might have a mouth full of secretions, therefore needing their head turned to the side to allow drainage. Reassure the stroke victim and remember that they can probably hear you.

The heart attack and the stroke can cause a cardiac arrest. Arrest means stoppage. When breathing and/or the heart stops beating, the victim is clinically dead. Biological death occurs in about four to six minutes. This is when the cells of the body die. The brain is the most important organ and one of the first to be affected by biological death. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is a technique that transports oxygen to the brain of a victim of pulmonary or cardiac arrest. It is easily learned, and everyone physically and emotionally capable should enroll and complete a CPR course. The American Heart Association and other institutions offer these courses. The procedures change periodically and once you are trained, I suggest periodic refresher courses to update you. If you do not do it on a regular basis, you will lose the skills, so update regularly.

If nothing else, remember the warning signs of these cardiac emergencies, and enter the EMS system as soon as you can. Early entry is the key to survival. ●

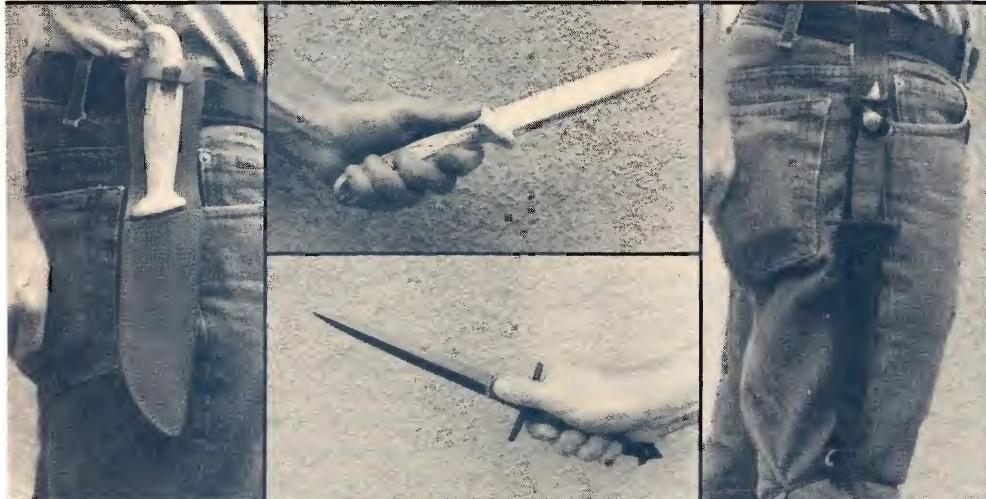
EK Commando Knife, Co.:

Murphy Combat Knife, V-42 Stiletto

Two new offerings from the military knife suppliers . . .



The V-42 Stiletto,
top, and the
Murphy Combat
Knife



Staff Report

EK Commando Knife Company, suppliers of world-class fighting/utility knives to American military personnel for generations, has three new knives in its line this year. Ek is now exclusive worldwide distributor for the World War II Murphy Combat Knife and the V-42 Stiletto. EK also has the new Ek Bowie Knife series with different types handle and sheath.

We have not yet received samples of the bowie knives. These will be featured in an upcoming issue. Shown here are the Murphy Knife and V-42 Stiletto.

During WWII David Z. Murphy and his son Dave custom built aluminum-handled military fighting knives for American servicemen. Now after 50 years the Murphy Company is reintroducing these knives with some important improvements. Dave Murphy

is personally hand grinding the blades and hot pouring the cast aluminum hilts onto the tangs — a technique pioneered by his father.

The high carbon steel (Rockwell C58-59) 6-inch blade is polished to an extra sharp edge and is easy to resharpen. The knife weighs less than half a pound and overall length is 11 1/4 inches. Each knife comes with a fine brown leather sheath which fits current-issue wide military belts. Price is \$149.

The V-42 Stiletto is the knife used by the "Forcemen," a special force of American and Canadian soldiers who stormed Rome on June 4, 1944. These knives are individually hand built by H. G. Long & Company in Sheffield, England. The V-42 features a skull-crusher pommel with a sharp pointed finial, a hand-polished grip of genuine leather washers and accented by thin brass rings and the classic thumbprint stamped into the ricasso which provides a sure grip for accuracy when thrusting or slicing.

The dark, gun-blued 7 1/4-inch carbon steel blade is highly tapered to a stiletto-sharp point. Overall length is 12 1/4 inches. The knife comes with a 16 1/2-inch brown leather sheath also made in England. It's one of the longest ever developed for a knife and is positioned low on the user's thigh for comfort and so the grip falls directly into the user's hand. A riveted black metal sheath tip protects the knife's point, as well as the user. Price is \$169.

If you are not completely satisfied with these knives, you can return them within 45 days of purchase for a full refund. For more information or ordering, contact: Ek Commando Knife Company, Dept. ASG, 601 N. Lombardy St., Richmond, VA 23220; or call toll free (800) 468-5575 (toll number is 804-257-7272). ●

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loops, button fly, and leg ties to keep socks up and dirt out (also great for bousing in boots). But the pockets are one of the main reasons to buy these pants. There are six: 2 front slash, 2 rear with double button flap, and two large bellow pockets in the front. All pockets are reinforced so they will not rip out. These pants are made to tough military contract specifications and will last for more years than you want them to. In all sizes from XS to XL in standard lengths. We offer them in rich grey, tropical tan and standard woodland camo. Our men and women customers wear them for everything from hunting to working in the yard to going to the mall. They offer that natural casual look that is so great for any age. Sold in stores and catalogs for up to \$39.00 pair.

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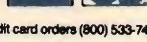
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Here the Aquatimer's disk has changed color after having been immersed in boiling water for several minutes.

Staff Report

AQUATIMER is an ingenious little device that lets you know when you've boiled water long enough to kill most common water-borne microorganisms, including *Giardia Lamblia*, the most frequent cause of illness for campers and backpackers.

Aquatimer is a teardrop-shaped see-through acrylic device with a thermally activated liquid crystal disk inside it that changes color. The Aquatimer measures 3.5 centimeters (1 3/8 inches) long, 2.5 cm (1-inch) wide and 1.3 cm (1/2-inch) deep. It is boiled in water that is to be disinfected and indicates when disinfection occurs.

The disk changes color from black

to blue when the water has been boiled long enough to destroy most microorganisms in it. Aquatimer automatically compensates for changes in boiling temperatures in elevations between sea level and 11,000 feet.

Removed from boiling water and kept at room temperature, the Aquatimer disk returns to its normal black color. Aquatimer can be used again and again with no loss in efficiency. It has been tested up to 1,500 times with no decreases in performance. It can be handled with bare hands immediately after removal from boiling water with no risk of burning. Aquatimer is \$5.95 plus \$1.75 for postage and handling from NITRO-PAK Survival Foods & Supplies, Dept. ASG, 11018 E. Rosecrans Ave., Suite 300, Norwalk, CA 90650; (213) 929-4705. ●

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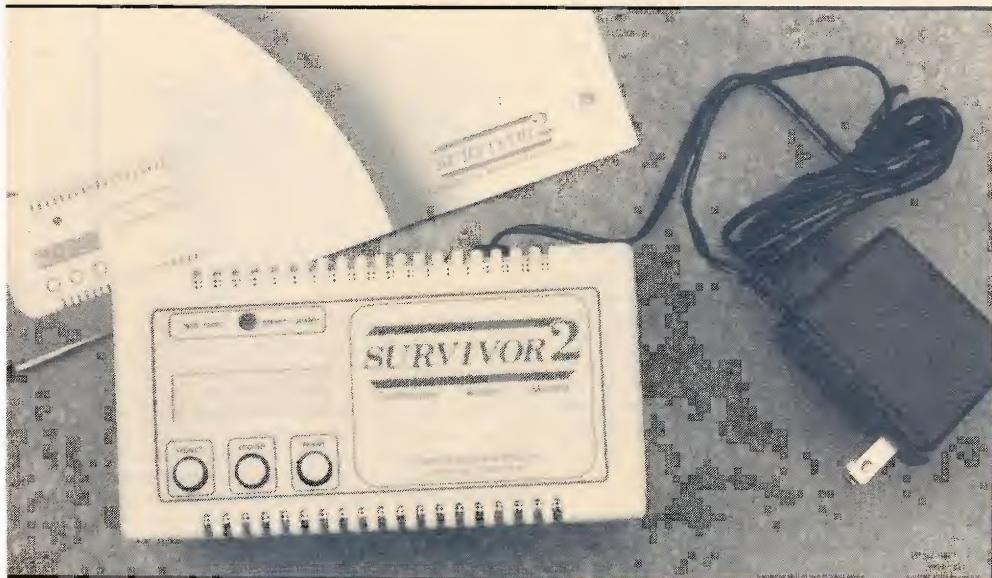
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Staff Evaluation

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The Survivor 2 plugs into any 110-volt outlet and gives digital readouts of radon gas levels in 12-hour averages for 7-day or 365-day periods.



A close-up view of the Survivor 2, showing that it is set for the 7-day average. There are three control buttons. The Mode switch allows the user to select the type of test period. Pressing the Select switch displays average level of radon for the period selected (mode). The Reset switch is used to delete data in either the 365-day or 7-day mode. The LED light glows red if unsafe radon levels are detected, green if safe levels are detected.

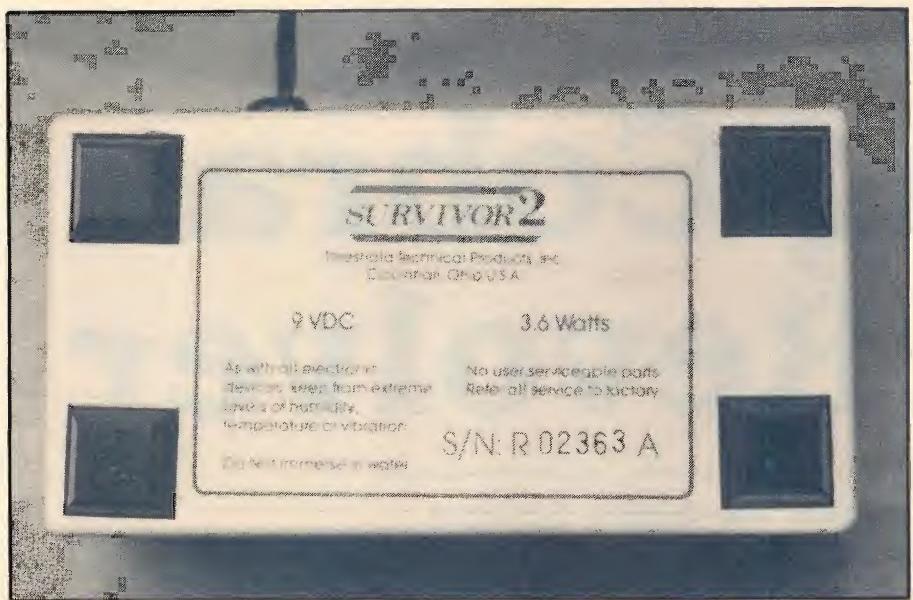
THE Survivor 2 Continuous Radon Monitor will give you a continuous LCD readout of the level of radon gas present in your home, office or other property.

Simply plug the Survivor 2 into any 110-volt outlet, set the controls and the device goes to work giving you the average radon level in 12-hour periods for either one week (7 days) or one year (365 days). You can also switch back and forth, keeping data stored in the unit for the 365-day average while testing another location for the 7-day average.

The Survivor 2, with its microprocessor controlled features, is simple to operate — there are only three buttons to push. Besides the digital data readout, the Survivor 2 has a bi-color LED that glows with a green light if the radon levels are within the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommended safe maximum level of 4 picocuries of radon per liter of air, or glows with a red light if radon levels are above the 4 picocurie maximum.

Radon gas, the product of decaying uranium and radium, is colorless and odorless. It is present in all soils. Some areas of the nation are known to have high concentrations of it in the soil, but these concentrations can vary dramatically. The radon gas seeps into structures through cracks in foundations and other points, accumulating to dangerous concentrations. The EPA estimates that 5,000 to 20,000 lung cancer deaths occur each year in this country due to exposure to unsafe levels of radon. The EPA has tested more than 15,000 homes and found about one fifth to contain unsafe levels of radon. The EPA estimates as many as 8 million homes may have unsafe levels of radon. Long term exposure to unsafe radon levels dramatically increases your chances of getting lung cancer.

By opening windows or otherwise venting the structure in which radon accumulates, the level can be brought down to a safe one, but in structures



The underside of the Survivor 2, showing its voltage and wattage. The device is for indoor use only and must not come in contact with water.

with high concentrations of the radioactive gas extensive and sophisticated venting procedures are sometimes required to make them safe.

An ASG staff member borrowed a Survivor 2 from the manufacturer, Threshold Technical Products of Cincinnati, and set up a test of the radon levels in his bedroom.

To determine what the maximum radon level would be for the test period, he closed all windows and the door to the room, even covering the space at the bottom of the door with a towel. He set the Survivor 2 to give a 12-hour readout for the 7-day period. At the end of the 12-hour period he was astonished to see the red light

come on and a readout of 10.42 picocuries per liter of air in the room. This was about 2½ times the recommended maximum safe concentration of radon gas!

For the next few days the Survivor 2 was set and reset to give 12-hour test readings of the radon levels with the windows opened and the door unblocked. To the tester's relief, the readings dropped to between approximately 1.7 and 3.8 picocuries — all within the EPA recommended safe levels of radon. By merely opening a window to allow fresh air into the room, the radon levels became acceptable.

Radon levels as high as 3,500 picocuries per liter of air have been discovered in some homes in "hot spots" of the nation. Radon is something we should all be concerned about.

The Survivor 2 is simple to operate and gives a precise and continuous reading of radon gas levels. It worked flawlessly during testing, is compact and well made. It is available for \$295 from Threshold Technical Products, Dept. ASG, 7225 Edington Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45249. To order by telephone or for more information call toll free (800) 458-4931; in Ohio call collect (513) 530-5242. ●

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Colt:

King Cobra .357 Revolver

A big, rugged, top-quality handgun... .



By Jim Benson

COLT's King Cobra line of revolvers are referred to as the "work horses" of .357 Magnums.

These heavy duty, all-steel construction handguns combine strength and durability with Colt's improved internal working mechanism and will handle all standard commercial .357 and .38 Special loads, including .38 Special + P and + P + ammunition.

Designed for law enforcement and self defense, these guns are made for large-handed people. While they could be used for concealed carry, their size and bulk would make that difficult except perhaps on larger framed people with bulky clothing. They are available in bright stainless, matte stain-

less and blue finishes, with 2½-, 4- and 6-inch barrel lengths. Sights are a red ramp insert front blade and adjustable rear square notch with white outline.

The King Cobras are single/double action revolvers. They feature a solid barrel rib and full length contoured ejector rod housing. The ejector rod is free floating and independent of the forged steel frame and barrel. The combat style grips are black neoprene with finger grooves for a sure grip under all conditions.

Like most modern revolvers, the King Cobra has an internal safety mechanism that prevents the hammer from striking the firing pin until the trig-

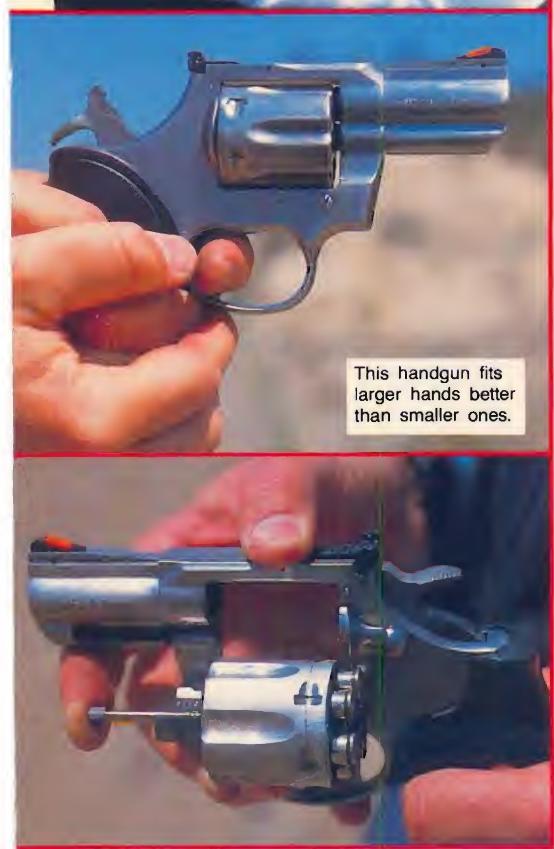
(Continued on page 68)

These groups were fired with quick aimed fire from 7 yards with Federal and Hornady 125-grain .357 Magnum ammunition.





Shooters found the King Cobra had quite a bit of recoil and muzzle blast with magnum loads.



This handgun fits larger hands better than smaller ones.

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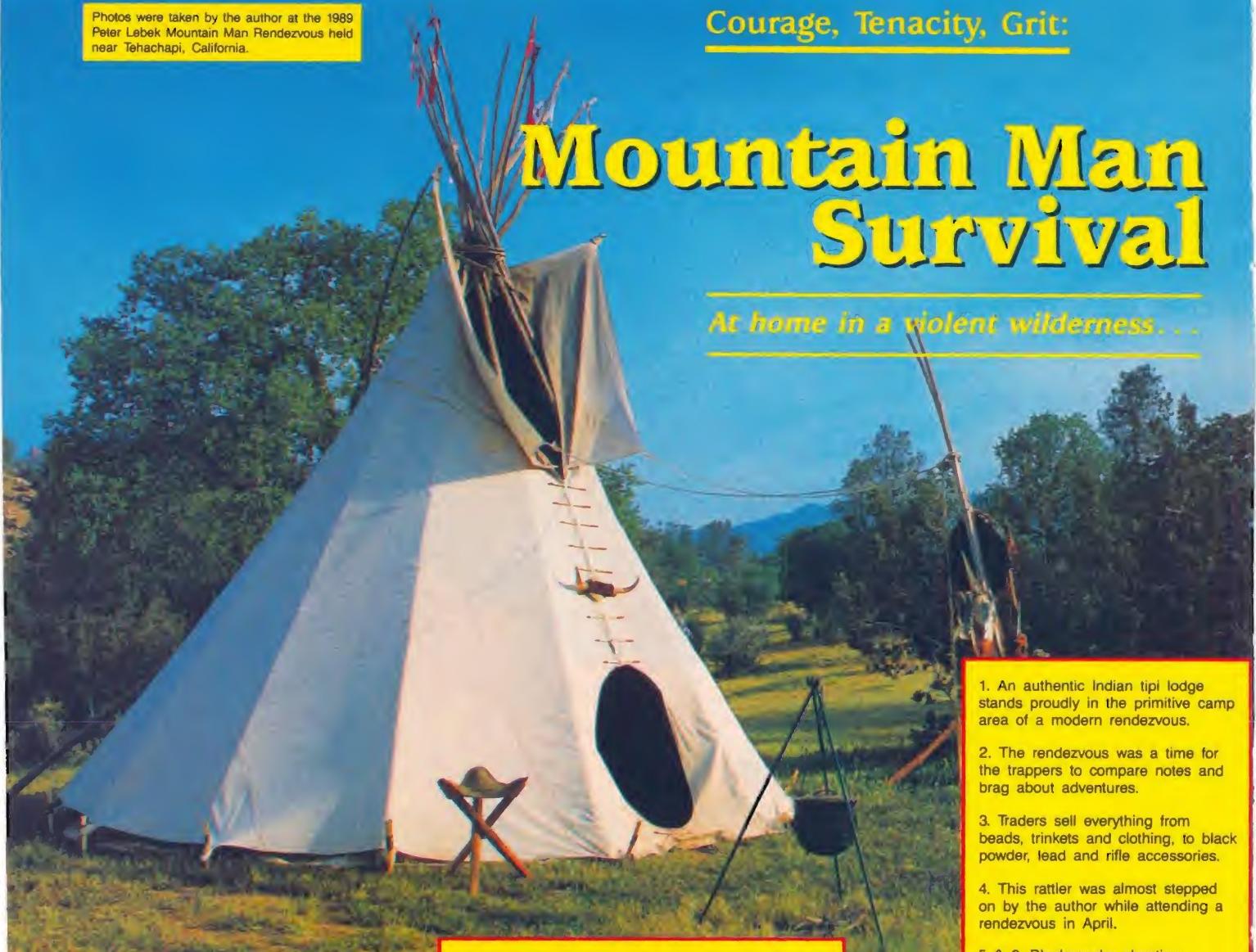
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Photos were taken by the author at the 1989 Peter Lebek Mountain Man Rendezvous held near Tehachapi, California.

Courage, Tenacity, Grit:

Mountain Man Survival

At home in a violent wilderness...



1.

By Scott Stoddard

THE early fur trappers who worked the icy streams of the Rocky Mountains lived a hard, lonely life. With the westward push of pioneers and gold seekers still years in the coming, the trappers of the early 1800s had the alpine meadows, the craggy peaks, and the rolling hills of the high country virtually all to themselves. They became known as *mountain men*, the bold, rugged individualists who learned to survive nature's extremes and stay alive among hostile Indian nations.

Most of the mountain men started out as young, ordinary men who had the simple skills and requirements of a farm laborer: a strong back, a good constitution and experience with tools and weapons. Many were ex-farm hands

who were bored with agricultural life and wanted the adventure, the escape, and the money that fur trapping could pay — between one to two thousand dollars for a season's harvest of quality pelts.

One of the best descriptions of a typical mountain man comes from Rufus Sage, himself a fur trapper and small trader of the 1830s.

"His skin, from constant exposure, assumes a hue almost as dark as that of the Aborigine, and his features and physical structure attain a rough and hardy cast. His hair, through inattention, becomes long, coarse, and bushy, and loosely dangles upon his shoulders. His head is surmounted by a low crowned wool-hat, or a rude substitute of his own manufacture. His clothes are of buckskin, gaily fringed at the seams with strings of the same material cut and made in a fashion peculiar to himself and associates. The deer and buffalo furnish him the required covering for his feet which he fabri-

1. An authentic Indian tipi lodge stands proudly in the primitive camp area of a modern rendezvous.

2. The rendezvous was a time for the trappers to compare notes and brag about adventures.

3. Traders sell everything from beads, trinkets and clothing, to black powder, lead and rifle accessories.

4. This rattler was almost stepped on by the author while attending a rendezvous in April.

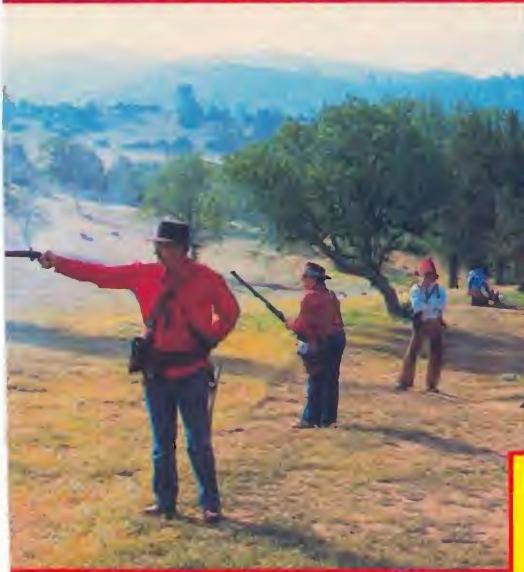
5 & 6. Blackpowder shooting contests are an important feature of a mountain man rendezvous.

5.

4.



2.



3.



cates at the impulse of want. His waist is encircled with a belt of leather, holding encased his butcher-knife and pistols — while from his neck is suspended a bullet-pouch securely fastened to the belt in front, and beneath the right arm hangs a powder-horn traversely from his shoulder, behind which, upon the strap attached to it, are affixed his bullet-mould, ball-screw, wiper, awl, &c. With a gun-stick (a homemade ramrod) made of some hard wood and a good rifle placed in his hands, carrying from thirty-five balls to

the pound, the reader will have before him a correct likeness of a genuine mountaineer when fully equipped."

A mountain man traveled light — with scarcely more than a little flour, coffee, tea and salt, he carried no food. He lived almost entirely off the land. His gun was usually a powerful .40 to .60 caliber rifle made by the Hawken brothers of St. Louis, and with it he could knock down a buffalo or grizzly bear at 200 yards. He also learned to gather wild berries, rose

(Continued on page 66)



How-To:

Saving Garden Seeds

A vital step to food self sufficiency...



Heat and moisture are the two greatest enemies of proper seed storage. Seeds can be dried thoroughly on a screen or on layers of newspaper and then placed in air-tight containers in a cool place.



Canning jars are an ideal way to save seeds since you can easily inspect for damage caused by insects or moisture.



When you have a limited supply of seeds or simply want to insure a high success rate, seeds can be started inside. The trays shown here, the Accelerated Propagating System from Garden's Supply, help keep moisture even to assist germination.

By Becky Gillette

SOME of the best lessons for survival come from people who have lived close to the edge of existence for many years. The Vietnamese refugees in the U.S. are a good example. Many of these refugees arrived in the country penniless. Few, however, arrived seedless.

I wonder how much most average American gardeners could produce if they were suddenly cut off from seed catalogs and the local garden centers? Very little, I suspect. Most don't bother saving seeds at all. Yet with only a little extra time and knowledge of seed saving techniques, they could be much closer to self sufficiency in food production. Besides saving the expense of

buying all of their seeds every year, they would have a seed "bank" as insurance against hard times.

Visiting the gardens of Vietnamese immigrants in Biloxi, Mississippi, I was impressed by the fact that these thrifty folk grow gardens almost entirely from seeds saved from the previous years. Most of the seeds are heirloom varieties, Asian vegetables grown from seeds brought to the U.S. with the immigrants.

Bringing their own seeds served several purposes. First, most of their favorite vegetables simply weren't available in the U.S. Second, with their seeds in hand, they avoided the expense of purchasing seed — an important consideration for people struggling to get an economic foothold in a land where barriers of language and custom initially made it difficult to get a good job. Also, the familiar crops helped make a new country seem a little less strange and alienating.

The rest of us can also enjoy a pleasing continuity with our gardening past by saving seeds from year to year. Imagine the satisfaction of growing the same variety, say some Country Gentleman corn seeds originally given to you by a favorite uncle, for 20, 30, 40 years. Growing the same variety year after year hones your gardening skills, as you learn more each year about the best cultivation techniques, times to start seed and methods to control insects on that specific variety. It's much more beneficial than jumping from one variety to another year after year, never knowing if a poor crop stems from the weather, insects, bad seeds or other factors.

One benefit of saving your own seed is that you can select for the qualities you desire — size, flavor, earliness, hardiness, disease and drought resistance, being slow to bolt, etc. You'll only want to select seeds from hardy plants, and look at the overall vigor of the plant instead of just one factor. It's a good idea to save the seeds from five or more plants, rather than just one.

And, especially if you're working with a rare variety, don't ever plant all the seeds at one time. Always save a few as insurance against crop failure caused by weather, birds eating the seeds, disease or other calamities. It's usually a good idea to stagger plantings anyhow, so that you have a harvest that lasts over weeks or months, providing fresh food over a longer period of time.

The first step on the path to seed



When saving seeds from plants such as turnips, choose seeds from the last plants to bolt.

self sufficiency is learning which types of vegetable seeds can be saved. Hybrid plants, seeds bred from genetically different parents, won't produce seeds worth saving. So you'll want to concentrate on growing open-pollinated plants which produce seeds true to the parents. These are often referred to as "heirloom" varieties because they can be passed down from generation to generation.

Often — but not always — the seed catalogs or seed package will tell you if a variety is hybrid. If it doesn't say it's hybrid, it usually isn't. One way to be certain is buying from sources that deal only with open-pollinated varieties (see accompanying article on catalog companies specializing in open-pollinated varieties).

I'd recommend joining a non-profit organization called the Seed Savers Exchange (SSE) just in order to get their catalog of open-pollinated varieties. Even if you don't order through the organization, which is dedicated to maintaining valuable genetic diversity in seed stocks by preserving heirloom varieties, the catalog can be used to determine if the varieties of seeds you get from the local garden store or through mail order are open pollinated.

Annual membership in SSE is \$15 per year, and will give you access to more than 4,000 seed varieties which can be ordered through members at a nominal cost. The membership fee includes catalogs with information on available seeds, and a detailed guide to seed saving. For more information, send a long self-addressed, stamped envelope to Seed Savers Exchange, R.R. 3, Box 239, Decorah, Iowa 52101.

One primary reason members of the

Seed Savers Exchange and others are saving heirlooms varieties is that they see a great danger in depending on only a few crop varieties to produce the bulk of the nation's food. Too much homogeneity in crops leaves us vulnerable to total crop failure from disease epidemics. The Irish potato famine is an infamous example of the foolishness of relying too much on one genetically uniform crop.

Most gardeners won't want to go to the trouble of saving all the seeds needed for next year's crop. But, it doesn't take much time to save the seeds that are little trouble. You'll probably still want to buy a few of your favorite hybrids, but saving your non-hybrid varieties will give you confidence in your ability to grow enough food for your family even if cut off from normal seed sources.

Rules — Some fundamental rules about saving seeds:

Make sure that the seeds you save are mature, which usually means letting the plants continue growing past the time when you would normally pick the crop to eat. For example, beans should be left for about six weeks after they'd be picked to eat fresh. The pods should be so hard that you can hardly stick your fingernail through them.

Mature, dried seeds should break instead of bend. Next to getting mature seeds, the next most important step is making sure that the seeds are dried properly. Moist seeds in storage will quickly mold and deteriorate. Seeds can be dried by placing them on a screen or newspaper. They can be dried in the sun, but if left exposed too long will suffer sun damage.

A safer bet is to dry them inside, either by hanging them up (as with entire bean plants or heads of sunflowers) or spreading them to dry. Even after seeds appear dry, they should be allowed to air dry an additional week.

If you live in a humid climate, air drying may not be enough. But don't resort to the oven, because it's too easy to destroy the seeds with heat. My preference is to air dry the seeds, and then place them in an airtight container — a dessicator — containing silica gel. Some people use silica gel to package the seeds with. What I do is less expensive. I dry the seeds for a couple of days in my dessicator, which is a large glass container, then place the dry seeds into airtight storage containers. I reheat the dessicator and silica gel in the oven to remove

Saving Garden Seeds

the excess moisture, and then reuse it to dry more seeds.

If you can't find a local source for silica gel, it can be purchased from Crystal Springs Packing Company, P.O. Box 2924, Petaluma, CA 94953, telephone (707) 778-0567. This source has silica gel that is color coded: the color changes if you start getting moisture intrusion so you're alerted to do something about it. This company also carries other seed-saver supplies, such as heat-sealable pouches for saving seeds, heat sealers and plastic bags.

You can also use a food dehydrator to dry seeds. Just set the control lower, and make sure the heat doesn't get above about 95 degrees F.

Another choice to remove moisture is to put some powdered milk in with seeds to absorb moisture. No matter what you use to keep seeds dry, it helps to package the seeds in clear containers that can be eyeballed occasionally to check for mold.

You'll also want to make sure your seed is free of insects and debris. It's easy to get egg cases in with seeds, and then end up with pests such as weevils that destroy the seeds. If the seed is thoroughly dry, it can be frozen to destroy bugs. But if the seed isn't completely dry, freezing can cause ice

crystals to expand and destroy the seed.

Packaging materials can vary according to what you have on hand, as long as they are airtight. I prefer canning jars for larger quantities of seeds, and zip-lock type bags for smaller amounts. Film cans also work for small amounts of seed, but these aren't see-through, and so can't be checked as easily for mold or insect damage.

Make sure that all seed containers are labeled, and include the date harvested. Plantings in the garden, likewise, should be plainly marked to keep track of varieties to be used to save seed. Seeds should be stored in a cool, dry place. If you've got room, refrigerated or frozen seeds will last longer. But that's not necessary for seeds saved less than a year. When removing seeds from refrigeration, allow the container to warm to room temperature before opening to prevent moisture condensation on the seeds.

It's always the best policy to use seeds that are only one year old, but properly stored they should last several years or longer — depending on the type of seed. Frozen seeds can last up to five times longer than non-refrigerated seeds.

If you're just starting out saving seeds, then concentrate on the easiest

seeds. Luckily, some of the least fussy seeds for saving are also staple crops that could provide the bulk of your family's diet, if necessary. These include beans, a very important protein source, wheat, peas, peppers, tomatoes, lettuce, eggplants and sunflowers. These plants are usually self-pollinating, meaning that they pollinate themselves without the help of insects or wind.

Self-pollinated plants normally don't have to be separated to prevent crossing, which will leave you with unplanned — and probably undesirable — progeny. Still, it doesn't hurt to separate varieties a bit if you've got the room. There are also other advantages to separating plants. For example, I've seen bacterial wilt hit one tomato plant, and then go down the entire row, knocking out every last plant. But tomatoes planted a short distance away managed to escape the disease, which can be spread by insects. Staggering plantings around the garden can help confuse insects, instead of giving them one big target.

Cross-pollinated crops, however, do require special precautions to breed seeds true to the parent. Cross-pollinated plants are fertilized by pollen from other plants transferred by wind

How Long Can Seeds Be Stored?

Kind of Seed	Number of years seeds can be stored	Average number of seeds per ounce	Kind of Seed	Number of years seeds can be stored	Average number of seeds per ounce
Asparagus	3	1,400	Kohlrabi	3	9,200
Lima bean	3	20-70	Leek	2	9,900
Snap bean	3	100	Lettuce	6	26,000
Beet	4	2,000	Muskmelon	5	1,100
Broccoli	3	8,100	New Zealand spinach	3	430
Brussels sprouts	4	8,500	Okra	2	500
Cabbage	4	7,700	Onion	1	8,500
Carrot	3	22,000	Parsley	1	18,000
Cauliflower	4	8,600	Parsnip	1	6,800
Celeriac	3	50,000	Pea	3	50-230
Celery	3	76,000	Pepper	2	4,500
Chard, Swiss	4	1,500	Pumpkin	4	200
Chicory	4	20,000	Radish	4	3,100
Chinese cabbage	3	7,000	Salsify	1	2,000
Sweet corn	2	140	Spinach	3	2,900
Cucumber	5	1,100	Squash	4	180-380
Eggplant	4	7,200	Tomato	4	10,000
Endive	5	17,000	Turnip	4	14,000
Kale	4	10,000	Watermelon	4	320

Based on table in "Vegetable Seed Germination," by J. F. Harrington and P. A. Minges, a pamphlet published by the University of California Extension Service

or insects. They include corn, cruciferous vegetables such as cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli and kale, and cucurbits: cucumbers, melons, pumpkins and squash.

To keep cross-pollinated crops pure, you have several options. Plant only one variety, or time plantings so that one variety has finished fertilization before another begins. If you have the room, you can separate varieties by about a quarter mile. The last option is pollinating by hand, which is time consuming but worth the effort if you like big variety in the vegetable patch. Pollination techniques differ depending on the type of vegetable. For more information, see the Seed Savers Exchange seed saver guide.

Saving Vegetables — Here are some specifics on saving some of the more common types of vegetables:

Beans and Peas — Seldom any problem with crossing, except with runner beans which have to be separated by a quarter mile. Harvest for seed when most of the leaves have dried up and fallen off. Shell and remove chaff by winnowing. Weevils are a big problem with beans, so dry seed and freeze them for a couple of days to kill the weevils.

Corn — Plant one variety, stagger plantings so the stalks don't tassel at the same time, or separate by a quarter mile to prevent crossing. Save seed from a number of ears instead of just one to avoid interbreeding that can lead to weaknesses. Leave the ears on the corn until the husk turns brown, and then hang them up to dry. When kernels are dry, remove from ear by twisting.

Cucurbits — Cucumbers, melons, pumpkins and watermelon are cross-pollinated, so grow only one variety of each unless you hand-pollinate or separate varieties widely. Except for muskmelons, most of these are relatively easy to hand pollinate. For more information on hand pollinating cucurbits, see the SSE seed-saver guide.

Different varieties of squash and pumpkins within the same four species of cucurbits listed below will cross easily, but there won't be crossing between species. Only one variety can be grown from each of the four following groups if you want to save seeds:

Cucurbita pepo. Small sugar and Connecticut field pumpkins, and acorn, crookneck, scallop, spaghetti and zucchini squash.

C. maxima. Hubbard, banana, delicious, buttercup, turban and marble-

head squash.

C. moschata. Butternut, cheese, Golden cushaw and melon squash.

C. mixta. Tennessee sweet potato, Japanese pie and mixta gold.

Allow all cucurbits to remain on the vine until the skin hardens and seeds are mature. This will be several weeks after you would normally harvest. Wash seeds to remove pulp before drying. Allow cucumber seeds to ferment for several days with the same technique used for fermenting tomatoes (see tomatoes below).

Lettuce — Kill any wild lettuce nearby, which can cross with domesticated lettuce and cause bitterness. Separate plant varieties by 10 feet. Wait until seeds are fully developed before harvesting, and don't pick the first seeds that appear. Those are from the early bolters. Instead, select seeds from lettuce plants that are last to bolt.

Peppers — These are usually self-pollinating, but can be crossed by insects, so either grow under a cover such as Reemay that keeps out insects, or plant different varieties an eighth of a mile apart. Be cautious when removing seeds from hot peppers to avoid getting burned. Anything you touch after handling the seeds — like your eyes — can end up burning painfully.

Spinach — Select for late bolting. This is cross pollinating, so plant only one variety or separate by a quarter mile.

Tomatoes — Tomato varieties need only be separated by about six feet to prevent cross pollination. This most popular of garden vegetables is also among the easiest to save. Pick fruit from the best plants, scrape out meaty pulp containing seeds and place in a container with water. Allow to ferment in warm place for five days. The odor can be nasty, so you'll want to do this in an outdoor shed, if possible.

The fermentation helps destroy diseases, and is used to separate good seeds from the junk. After five days, pour off the bad seed and pulp at the top. The good seed will have settled to the bottom. Wash the seeds in a strainer, dry and label.

Biennials — Vegetables that take two years to produce seeds include beets, members of the cabbage family (Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, collards and kale), carrots, celery, parsnips, salsify, turnips, celery, onions and swiss chard. Most of these are cross-pollinating, and thus only one variety can be grown for seed saving purposes unless you separate or hand pollinate.

With broccoli and cauliflower, don't harvest for eating if you're planning on saving the seeds as the plants won't have enough energy left for adequate seed production.

Let biennials overwinter in the garden. If your climate is too cold, dig them up and store them for spring re-planting.

All this information may seem a bit much to start out with, but experience will teach you that saving your own seeds does not have to be all that difficult. After all, it's how mankind survived through the countless generations before the relatively recent advent of mail order seed catalogs and garden supply centers. If primitive man could do it, surely his modern counterpart shouldn't find it that tough to follow suit. ●

Mail-order Seed Catalogs Specializing in Open-pollinated or Heirloom Plants

Bountiful Gardens, 19550 Walker Road, Willits, Calif. 95490. This is John Jeavons's Ecology Action group, so buying through this source promotes bio-intensive agriculture projects in the U.S. and Third World countries. Good selection of green manure seeds and open-pollinated vegetables. Write for free catalog.

Butterbrooke Farm, 78 Barry Road, Oxford, Conn. 06483. Can't beat the prices at this seed cooperative. Seed packets for chemically untreated heirloom varieties cost only 49 cents. Price list for a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE).

Corns, Rt. 1, Box 32, Turpin, Okla. 73950. Free price list has offerings from people dedicated to saving non-hybrid varieties of corn.

Glecker Seedmen, Metamore, Ohio 43540. Free catalog lists many heirloom seeds.

The Grain Exchange, c/o The Land Institute, 2040 East Waterwell Road, Salina, Kansas 67401. A non-profit seed exchange for preserving genetic diversity of grains such as amaranth, barley, flax, oats and rye. Send SASE for information.

J.L. Hudson, Seedsman, P.O. Box 1058, Redwood City, Calif. 94064. Large collection of open-pollinated and rare seeds from the world over. Catalog \$1.

Native Seeds/SEARCH, 3950 West New York Drive, Tucson, Ariz. 85745. This non-profit organization offers varieties of squashes, corn, melons and other food plants used by the Native Americans of the Southwest. Catalog \$1.

Peace Seeds, A Planetary Gene-Pool Service and Resource, 2385 S.E. Thompson St., Corvallis, Oregon 97333. Price list for \$1; catalog, \$3.50. Large selection of seeds for trees, flowering plants and heirloom vegetables and fruits. Group dedicated to promoting diversity of the plant kingdom.

Redwood City Seed Co., P.O. Box 361, Redwood City, Calif. 94064. Unusual and rare vegetable and herbs seeds from all over this world. Catalog \$1.

Southern Exposure Seed Exchange, P.O. Box 158, North Garden, Virginia 22959. Large selection of heirloom and regionally adapted varieties. Catalog \$3.

Tillinghast Seed Co., P.O. Box 738, La Conner, Wash. 98257. Free catalog of old varieties of vegetables, herbs and wildflowers from a seed company that's been around for more than a century.

Vermont Bean Seed Co., Garden Lane, Fair Haven, Vermont 05743. Specializes in beans, but also offers other vegetable and herb seeds. Free catalog.

Westwind Seeds, 2509 North Campbell, #139, Tucson, Ariz. 85719. Catalog price of \$1 refundable with order for non-hybrid vegetable, flower and herb seeds adapted to extremes such as heat and drought.

Freeze-Dried, Dehydrated, Retort:

SI Storage Foods



The industry giant Survival Incorporated offers a large array of storage foods for every need and budget...

Staff Report

SI, or Survival Incorporated, is well known for its huge variety of survival gear and provisions. The company, long a leader in storage foods, has recently expanded its facilities with the purchase of a storage food processing plant.

SI's dry pack cannery processes dried foods for long-term storage with vacuum packed, nitrogen-flushed canning operations. The firm offers half a dozen year's supplies of storage foods supplying varying amounts of calories and all the major food groups.

SI is also the largest buyer of military overruns of retort (military meals ready to eat) foods and carries a full line of entrees, side dishes and complete MRE food packs. With its food processing plant, supply of fresh retort meals and the freeze-dried and dehydrated storage foods it purchases from its suppliers, SI is one of the largest survival foods dealers in the country.

(Continued on page 34)

SI's basic year's supply of food comprises 10 boxes with 60 #10 cans of dehydrated, nitrogen-packed foods.



The new dry pack cannery processes a large variety of storage foods.

Professional Locksmithing Tools

LOCKAID

Specifically designed to pick tumbler locks. Designed over thirty years ago to aid law enforcement agencies. Consists of tension wrench, three needles and Lockaid "Gun." Prices include a copy of the book "Lock Picking Simplified."

Lockaid \$59.95



PIX MODEL 13

This deluxe yet compact kit features 11 of the most commonly used tools. Comes in a slim cowhide leather case for discreet undercover operatives. As a special bonus, a 5 piece set of warded picks is included. A 16 piece set total. Also included, a copy of "Lockpicking Simplified." Receive all this at a Low price of:

Pix 13 \$39.95



Lockpicking Simplified	\$6.00
Complete Guide to Lockpicking	\$9.00
Improvised Lock Picks	\$9.95
Tubular Locks	\$7.95
Lockout and forced entry	\$7.95

PIX-QUICK MODEL A

These high quality picks feature new lighter non-breakable plastic color coded handles. Picks are of .022 blue spring steel... hardened to perfection. Eight piece set comes with handy see-through case with two extra pockets and a copy of "Lockpicking Simplified."

Model A \$19.95



PIX-QUICK MODEL B

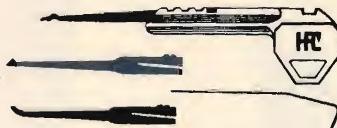
Same color coded set as Model A. Only with deluxe 13 pieces. Price includes tension wrench and book.

Model B \$27.95

Safe & Vault manipulation	\$9.95
How to Pick Pins & Wafers	\$8.95
Combination Locks	\$6.00
Keys by Impressioning	\$6.00

NEW ITEMS

KEY RING PICK SET



This unique design is ideal when low profile is required or to keep on your keyring for emergencies. Contains a tension wrench, three picks and the "Key Pick."

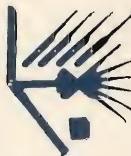
Key Ring Pick Set \$24.95

PIX-EZ ALL-IN-ONE PICK-SET

100% American Made! As convenient to carry and use as a pocket knife!

Only 4 inches long, half inch square, weighs under five ounces, works fast and opens pin and wafer tumbler locks quickly, with very little effort. Six tempered spring steel picks, tension wrench.

\$34.95



WKS PICKS

Made of the finest blue tempered spring steel this 5 piece padlock pick-set is a must in every locksmith's tool box. This set will pick open most every warded padlock made today.

\$9.95



MONTHLY SPECIAL

Receive a combination set, includes Pix Quick Model A, Double sided Disk tumbler Picks, Sesame Decoder and a Schlage Wafer.

An \$87.80 Value at a low price of \$59.95.



ESP-13

This handy new pick set is the most popular set among professional locksmiths today. This kit consists of 12 different tools housed in a handsome black leather case designed for a shirt pocket. Included in the price, you receive a 5 piece warded key set and a copy of "Lockpicking Simplified." 17 piece set total.

ESP-13 \$42.95



DOUBLE SIDED DISK TUMBLER PICKS

Set of 4 picks designed to be used on the most popular double-sided disc tumbler, showcase, cam and padlocks.

\$24.95



\$59.95

MINI PICK TUBULAR

The most effective tubular pick on the market, unlike the larger picks with long handles or screwdriver handles. The longer the tool, the more pressure needed which causes easy breakage. The advantage of the Mini Pick is it is so short, you only use your thumb and index finger. With a little practice this tool will open a tubular lock in less than a minute. A. Your Choice: (1) Center (2) Offset left (3) Offset right; B. "Sega" 8 pin tubular; C. 5-pin Tubular; D. 6-pin Tubular; E. 8-Pin Ace.

SESAMEE DECODER

This tool was designed to decode the exact combination of a sesamee padlock without damaging the lock. Detailed instruction included.



\$17.95

SCHLAGE WAFER

The most fantastic tool you will ever use. This set consists of two base keys and pick. Complete instructions included.

\$24.95



\$59.95



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Gun Room
P.H. \$3.00
Overseas \$6.00

SI Storage Foods



Some individual #10 cans of storage foods available from SI.



SI offers a complete line of military retort (meals ready to eat) foods sold by the individual packet or by the case.



Books on food production, processing and storage as well as grain grinders, food driers and canning equipment are available plus retort water pouches, water storage containers and water filtration and purification equipment.

The year's supplies of dehydrated, nitrogen packed foods are packaged in boxes of #10 cans and range in price from \$450 to about \$1,000, supplying 1,050 to 2,200 calories per day for one year for one person (or two persons for six months, etc.). The foods are guaranteed fresh by SI.

The basic year's supply unit is \$450 plus shipping and is packed in 10 boxes containing a total of 60 #10 cans. This unit has grains (wheat, corn, oats, rice), macaroni, noodles, beans, potatoes, vegetable stew blend, apples, bananas, pears, eggs, cheese, milk, beef patties, sausage and other meats. This unit will supply 1,050 calories a day for one year for one person.

These foods can also be purchased individually by the case or even the can from SI. SI offers the same types of foods in smaller #2½ cans for people who desire less storage foods or who are on tight budgets.

A full line of military retort foods is available: eight to 10 entree meals plus accessory foods such as dried fruit bars, cakes, cookies and crackers and spreads, vegetables and beans. These are sold in individual packets or by the case. All are fresh, usually packaged by military suppliers in the past year or two.

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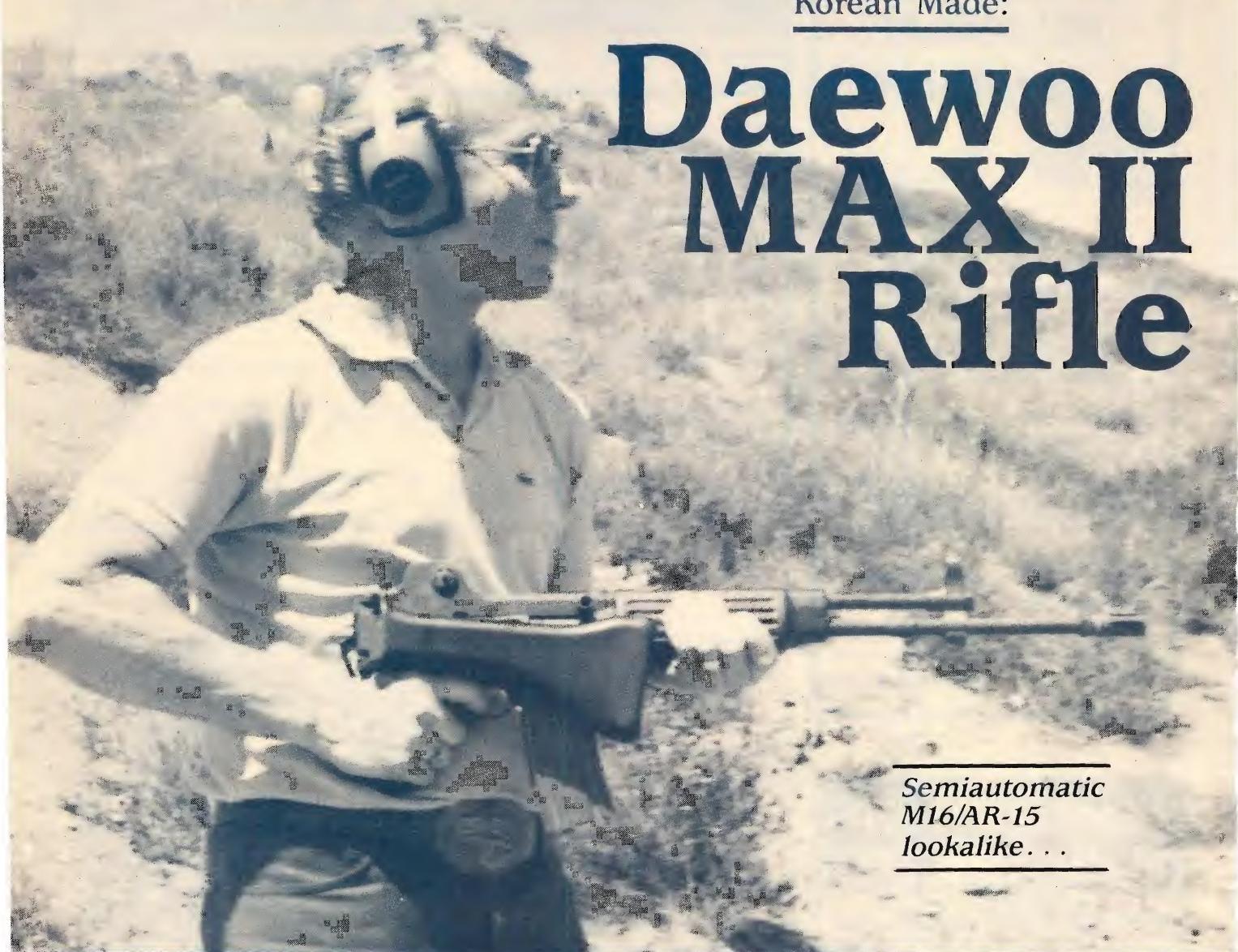
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Korean Made:

Daewoo MAX II Rifle



Semiautomatic
M16/AR-15
lookalike...

The author found the Daewoo MAX II easy to shoot from the hip with stock folded, but making mag changes is difficult because stock covers the release button.

By Bud Lang



Upper receiver is aluminum, hinges up like any good semiauto should

WHEN is a military Jeep not a military Jeep? When it's dressed in red, white and blue paint and shod with Goodyear radials rather than khaki paint and big, cleated mud tires.

When is a military *assault rifle* NOT a military assault rifle? When it's a *semiauto* ONLY that's designed for hunting, plinking or practical target shooting, all legitimate *sporting* enterprises.

Unless you're like the proverbial ostrich with your head buried in the proverbial sand, or somewhere in between someplace else, you're getting the message. The left-leaning anti-liberalists running our country are on a real roll this year, the anniversary of the adoption of our Constitution, and they've targeted just about every gun

that isn't a single shot as a candidate for the scrap pile. Evidently they want to build a monument to Adolf and Josef.

One of these guns is the Daewoo MAX II, imported into the U.S. from Korea. The Daewoo (pronounced die-woo) MAX II is a semiautomatic rifle manufactured by Daewoo Precision Industries Ltd, one of the largest manufacturing industries in Asia, so large, in fact, that they also manufacture and export mini trucks.

The MAX II carries a full length folding fiberglass stock, while its near cousin, the MAX I, features a telescoping (retractable) buttstock. Both are chambered for the very popular 5.56mm NATO (.223 Remington) cartridge, so locating ammo will not be a problem anywhere in the country. I've had an opportunity to test both of these models in years past and the chance to evaluate the MAX II again was welcomed.

Unlike some of the guns coming in from communist China, the Daewoo is manufactured in South Korea. The manufacturer formerly produced Colt M16s under license for the ROK troops. The M16 was replaced some years back by the Daewoo K2 (the full auto version of the MAX II). The civilian version is a lightweight, air-cooled, gas piston operated semiauto employing a box magazine. The designers also borrowed features from some of the finer long guns in existence.

You'll find the rotating bolt system is similar to that used in the Colt M16/AR-15, while the gas piston and operating rod assembly is similar to the Galil and Kalashnikov. The design of this action is such that it doesn't demand use of a separate piston; rather, the cammed, rotating bolt is actuated by direct action of the gases from the bleed tube.

If you find you have to pull the gun down in the field for any reason, you can do it without tools. Simply pop the hood, that is unlatch the aluminum upper receiver, and tilt it upwards, then remove the bolt, bolt carrier, firing pin, piston and recoil spring assemblies and clean or replace them if necessary.

An excellent feature of the Daewoo is its gas regulator system. It features four distinct positions, marked "O," "L," "M," and "S." The first position is the Open position which would be used for firing grenades, one we don't have to worry about. The Large ("L") setting is for use where you might have some crummy armo or where



Hinge for folding stock is durable, and it works great. Nothing flimsy about this gun.



This five-shot group measured only 2.61 inches, center-to-center, shot with military LC 72 ball ammo from 100 yards. This is tight considering the gun is equipped with metallic sights. Group isn't centered because we were shooting eight different loads through it. This was the best, so now would be the time to adjust the sights.

Front sight is hooded, like some H&Ks. Gas adjust nut is at the sight, atop barrel.

Daewoo MAX II Rifle



Comparison between an AR-15 (top) and the Daewoo illustrates the differences are small.



This five-shot group with PMC ball ammo was typical of that used. It produced a 3.9-inch group from 100 yards.

conditions are adverse, like where you haven't cleaned your gun for a spell. The Medium setting is more-or-less for normal use. If the weather conditions are extra-hot, or you're shooting hot reloads, then you'll want to set the regulator on "S," or Small, for the best results.

You should be aware that all semiautos should be cleaned frequently. This certainly applies to this gun. Any time you have a gas operated system, you have to keep it clean if your gun is going to function properly.

The sights on this gun are pretty good. The hooded front sight is similar to that found on some H&Ks. You can choose between four settings (100-200, 300, 400 and 500 meters). No tools needed to make windage changes, just use the tip of a spitzer bullet. To make elevation changes, depress the detent and rotate the front post. To raise the point of impact, rotate the post in the direction of the arrow, and vice versa.

During our evaluation of the Daewoo

MAX II, we fired a variety of ammo through it, like eight different factory loads. We shot five-shot groups a number of times with each load, and group sizes ranged from 2.6 to 11.5 inches, as measured center-to-center. One has to bear in mind that any rifleman can have a good day or a bad day, which means a five-shot two-inch group with Brand "X" ammo today can open up

to four inches tomorrow. But you have to take what you "gits" in any kind of survival situation. You're living for today, not tomorrow.

One-half of our groups were four inches and under, and the one that went 11 inches occurred because the ammo wasn't designed for this gun. We shot it to prove a point. The Daewoo features an 18.3-inch six-groove barrel with a one-in-12-inch twist. We have listed the cartridges fired and the best groups with each in an accompanying chart.

With respect to the rifle, we found the trigger was acceptable and the stock fit was okay. With the stock folded, one can still fire the rifle from the hip in an emergency situation, but it's hard to get to the mag release button. This rifle is available with 20- or 30-round magazines. If you happen to own an AR-15, you'll be pleased to know you can interchange mags, too.

Everything considered, the Daewoo MAX II is a pretty good rifle. We didn't encounter any problems firing eight different loads through it. They all functioned and one can't ask for more than that. It's certainly a gun you might be interested in, seeing as how AR-15s are going out of sight pricewise, assuming it's still legal to buy one where you are when you read this. ●

AMMUNITION	GROUP SIZE
Lake City 72 (GI)	2.6 inches
Rem 55-Gr HP	3.4 inches
PMC Ball	3.9 inches
Hornady 55-Gr Sp Pt	4.1 inches
Hirtenberger/Nosler 55-GR	5.5 inches
USA (Olin) 55-Gr FMC	7.0 inches
Win 55-Gr FMC	7.2 inches
SS-109 (GI)	11.5 inches

Daewoo MAX II: Tech Specs

Model	MAX II
Caliber	.556mm NATO
Action	Semiauto, Gas Operated
Barrel Length	18.3 inches
Weight (empty)	7.5 lbs
Overall Length (butt extended)	38.4 inches
Overall Length (butt folded)	28.7 inches
Maximum Range	2,901 yards
Effective Range	503 yards
Muzzle Velocity	3,200 fps
Cyclic Rate of Fire	45-65 RPM
Approximate Cost	Market Rate
Manufacturer	Daewoo Precision Ind.



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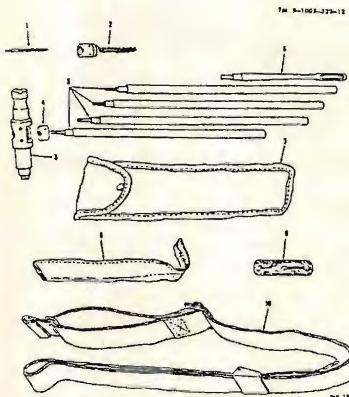
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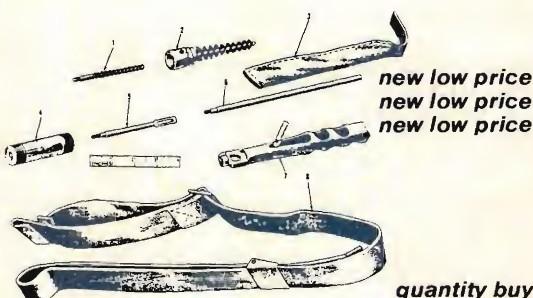
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Figure 48: Tools and equipment for 7.62mm rifle M1A.

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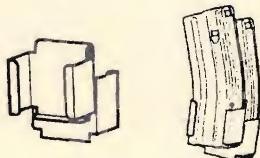
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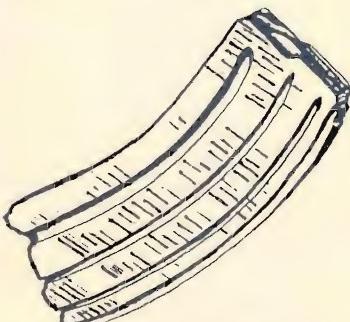


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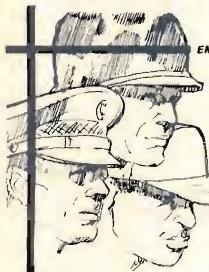
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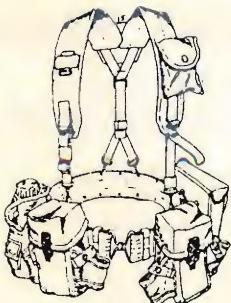
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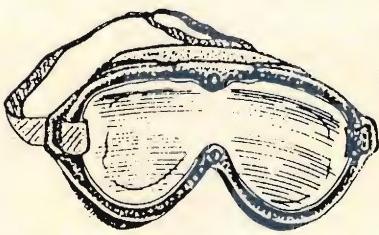
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INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENT

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1 Quart GI Canteen, od plastic	1.50
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LC-2 M-16 30 Round Magazine Carrier, carries 3 magazines	7.75
--	------

2 carriers 15.00

LC-2 Nylon Butt Pack, complete with all the straps	11.50
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LC-2 Pack Frame, latest issue pack frame for the medium & large packs. Complete with wide shoulder straps with quick release tabs on both sides.	50.00
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Wide padded kidney belt with a lexan quick release buckle, magnesium frame for lightness & strength. Not \$54.95	50.00
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LC-2 Pack Frame Shelf: with the shelf you can carry a 5 gallon container of water or gas, dressed out game & other bulky items. Current issue	5.75
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LC-2 Cargo Strap - od nylon webbing with a tension tight buckle; great on any pack, bike frame or cycle frame. Not \$4.50 like the other dealers	3.00
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2/5.00

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Poncho, rip stop nylon, camouflage, USMC issue, not \$32.00	24.00
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Entrenching Tool, new, near new, complete with carrier, limited supply	16.00
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Water Purification Tablets, iodine, has made water safe to drink the world over. Not .95 but75
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3/2.00 8/5.00 Utility Strap, od cotton canvas, snap hook on either end	2.50
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Chapstick, just like the stuff you pay. 89 for50
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Earplugs, late issue, complete with plastic carrier	2.95
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2/5.00 Match Carrier, od plastic, striker on bottom, not \$1.50	1.00
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Airborne Boot Laces, guaranteed unbreakable, 3 strand nylon cord, super for work & hunting boots75
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3/2.00 Viet Nam Metal Slide Keepers, metal tabs on the back of the new field gear, per keeper50
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Survival Incorporated:

Sleeping Bags

Both of these bags are rated to 10 degrees for three season comfort...



The Big Foot sleeping bag is very comfortable and is made with three pounds of Holofil II insulation.



Both cover and lining of the Big Foot is rugged ripstop nylon.



Stuff sacks for both bags protect against dirt and moisture.



The Two-pound down bag stuffs into a small sack and makes a good summer backpacker sleeping bag.

Staff Report

A NEW selection of sleeping bags is available at Survival Incorporated (SI) and at prices that are hard to beat. SI has spent hours with the manufacturers to come up with quality bags that offer great value. The following two bags are rated to 10 degrees above zero and would be sufficient for the spring, summer and fall seasons.

The Two-pound down bag offered by SI is cut as an oversized rectangle. It has baffled construction to eliminate cold spots and is excellent for backpacking. It weighs only 4.3 pounds total. Made of tough, blue nylon, it has a draft tube, zipper guard and stuff sack. In 1987 the bag retailed for \$129.95. SI is selling this bag for \$69.95 or two for \$120.



The Two-pound down bag is sewn in an oversized rectangular form.

While down insulation is one of the best natural insulators, DuPont has invented Holofil and Quallofil, modern synthetic fibers that offer some of the same features that goose down does: loft, compressability, light weight and warmth. The Big Foot is a tapered bag with three pounds of Holofil II in multi-layers with extra insulation in the feet area for maximum warmth and comfort. It is an oversize 33" x 84" x 24". The cover and liner is rugged ripstop nylon for years of rough use. Other features include a drawstring hood, big sewn-in weather tube, zipper guard, and stuff sack. The bag is machine washable and looks to be one of their most popular bags. Available for \$75 plus \$4.50 shipping and handling from: SI Outdoor Food & Equipment, 15600 S. Figueroa Street, Gardena, CA 90248; (213) 324-8855 or toll free outside California, (800) 533-7415 for orders only. Open Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Pacific Time. ●

F.I.E.:

SPAS-15

Dual Action Shotgun

Unique box-magazine-fed 12 gauge that switches from gas operated semiautomatic to pump action with the push of a button . . .



By Jim Benson

A good, rugged, all-purpose shotgun."

That's how the people at F.I.E. Firearms Corporation describe their new SPAS-15 dual-action 12 gauge, descendant of the famous SPAS-12 shotgun. Both are made by Franchi of Italy and imported by F.I.E.

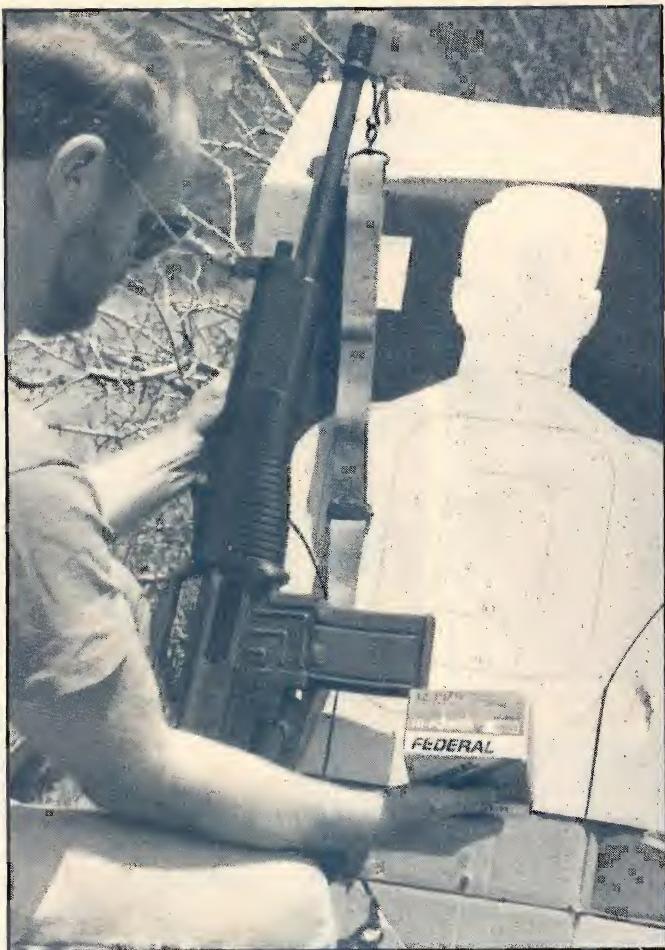
I should say that the SPAS-15 was imported by F.I.E. After the first shipment of some 260 guns arrived in this country and were sent out to dealers (and sold immediately), the federal

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF), acting in accordance with the current anti-gun hysteria whipped up by gun-hating media and politicians, halted further importation. As of this writing, the import ban remains in effect.

The SPAS-15 ban is a perfect example of the ridiculous, irrational, stupid fear of firearms our media and some politicians are promoting today. The number of crimes being committed with semiautomatic firearms simply does not justify the extreme, paranoid reaction to them of gun-hating media

types and politicians.

The SPAS-15 operates similarly to many other semiautomatic and pump shotguns, has the same barrel length and has the same magazine capacity as many other such shotguns which are perfectly legal in almost all jurisdictions. Yet the BATF has banned its importation. We can only assume this is because of the SPAS-15's resemblance to the M16/AR-15 rifle and its black, parkerized, military-style finish, which must strike fear in the hearts of gun haters as they cry, "Assault weapon!"



The SPAS-15 will fire any commercial 2 3/4-inch 12 gauge ammunition.



These shot patterns were fired from 15 yards with the SPAS-15.



The webb sling is convenient for carrying 10-pound weapons.

SPAS-15 Dual Action Shotgun



Sights are a fixed rear V notch and adjustable front post with protective wings.

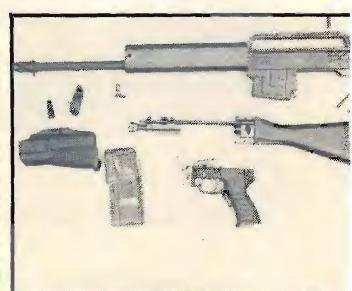


The shotgun is cocked by pulling back on the operating handle.



The muzzle end can be removed for firing flares or other devices.

Pressing this button changes the SPAS-15 from pump to semiautomatic and vice versa.



The SPAS-15 field stripped.

The safeties are a trigger disconnect lever and grip safety.

Well, yes, it does have military, police and self-defense applications and we could therefore refer to it as an assault weapon, as we have many such firearms in this magazine over the years. In fact we understand the U.S. Navy has purchased some of these shotguns with side-folding stocks. But this gun, just like all the rest, also has perfectly legitimate sporting purposes, such as pleasure shooting and hunting. And accessories such as barrel chokes are available for it for these purposes.

Research — The result of 7 years of research and development, the SPAS-15 is one of the few box-magazine-fed shotguns that we know of. It also offers the unique feature of its predecessor, the Franchi SPAS-12 shotgun, of permitting the user to switch instantaneously from gas-operated semiautomatic action to pump action with the press of a button.

A rotating bolt provides a more secure lock-up and the barrel being in

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line with the stock helps keep down recoil. Shells are fed from the top of the magazine directly into the chamber for operational stability. The magazine holds a maximum of six shells. A larger capacity magazine was not feasible since the stronger spring required caused damage to the shells.

The stock and forward grip are made of nylon and other parts of the SPAS-15 are steel. The black parkerized finish protects the gun from the elements and rough handling. The SPAS-15 is designed to fire any commercial 2 3/4-inch 12 gauge loads. We tested the SPAS-15 with some Winchester Super-X Magnum 00 Buckshot and Federal Hi-Power #7 1/2 shot loads. I also had some Winchester rifled slugs but left them at the office by accident.

We fired the shotgun switching back and forth between semiauto and pump action modes, using rapid fire and slow aimed fire. The SPAS-15 performed perfectly. No malfunctions of any kind were experienced. The sights on the gun—a front adjustable post and rear V-notch—are excellent and we had very good accuracy firing at silhouette targets from about 15 yards. We were unable to test the shotgun with slugs since we didn't have them, but the gun is designed to handle them and I have no doubt it does so well, with its 21 3/4-inch barrel.

We find the SPAS-15 to be an outstanding firearm: a good, rugged, dependable, all-purpose shotgun with the desirable features of dual actions and box-fed-magazine performance.

The original suggested retail price of about \$1,500 was not cheap, but you're getting two shotguns in one, and two high-quality shotguns at that.

The few SPAS-15s that were sold on the civilian market are now collector's items. We sincerely hope BATF will come to its senses and lift the unjustified ban on importation of the SPAS-15. ●

SPAS-15 Shotgun: Tech Specs

Caliber	12 gauge (2 3/4-inch)
Operation	Manual (pump)/semiautomatic (gas)
Lengths:	
Overall	.43 inches
Barrel	21 3/4 inches
Weight empty	9 1/4 pounds
Magazine capacity	6 rounds
Sights	Rear V notch, adjustable front post with protective wings
Sight radius	13 inches
Weapon height with magazine	10 1/2 inches
Safeties	trigger disconnect lever, grip safety
Price, suggested	\$1,595
Importer	F.I.E. Firearms Corp., Dept. ASG, P.O. Box 4866; Hialeah, FL 33014 (305) 685-5966

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Sierra Supply:

Military Medical Supplies

Staff Report

If you're stocking up on medical supplies for your survival/first aid kits, you'll be interested in some military first aid medical supplies from Sierra Supply.

These bandages, gauze and iodine solution were designed for use on severe injuries incurred under battlefield conditions, but will obviously be excellent for first aid necessities on camping, hiking or fishing trips or other outdoors activities as well as home or office emergencies.

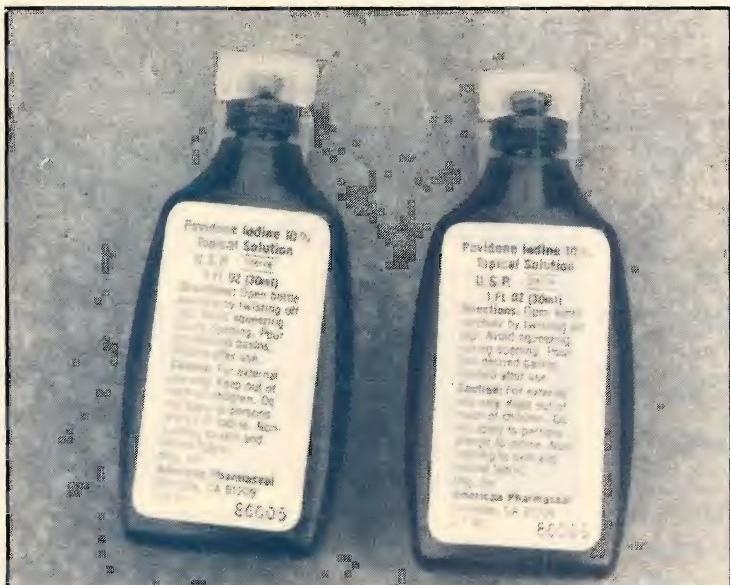
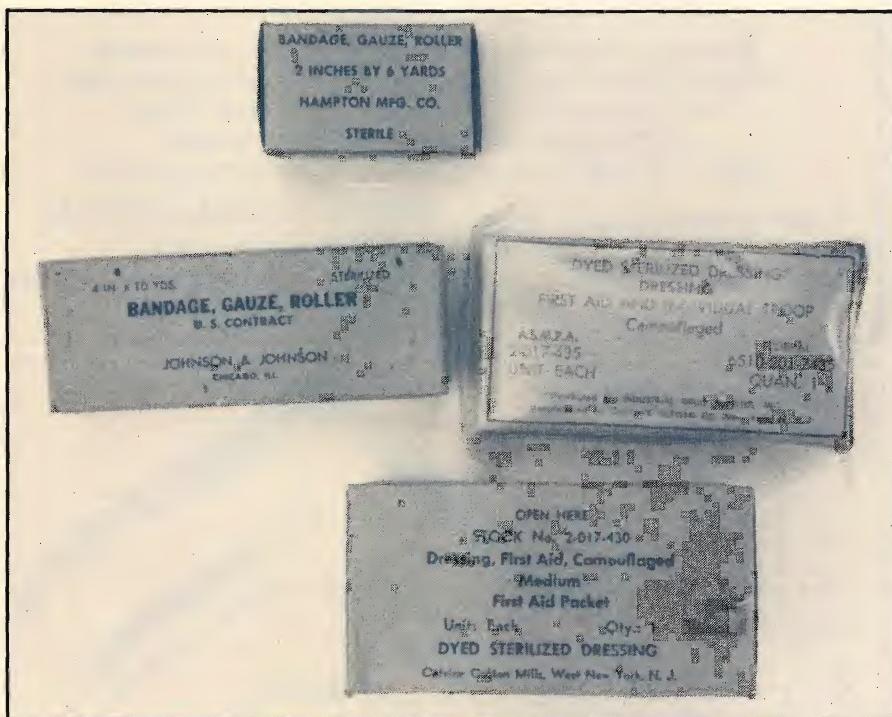
The military uses the battle dressings to control bleeding and stabilize traumatic wounds. They will absorb up to a pint of blood. They come with a long cotton streamer on each end which can be used as constricting bands, slings, etc., and to secure the dressings themselves over the wounds. Small size covers up to 4- by 7-inch wounds and the regular size up to 6- by 7-inch wounds. The dressings are sealed and guaranteed sterile and are camouflage color on the outside. Small dressings are \$2.50 each or two for \$4.50. Medium are \$2.75 each, two for \$5.

The cotton gauze is the work horse of your first aid kit. It can be used to attach dressings, cover wounds as makeshift dressings, constrict blood flow, make slings, immobilize limbs, etc. Sierra Supply has two types in stock: 2-inch by 6 yards (three rolls for \$1) and 4-inch by 10 yards (\$.75 each or three for \$2). The gauze is sealed and guaranteed sterile.

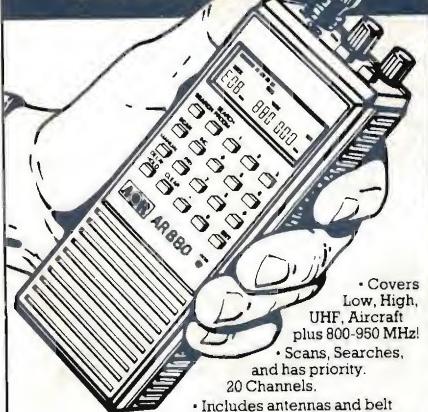
The povidone iodine 10 percent topical solution is a derivative of the famous betadine solution developed during the Vietnam War to treat fungus infections and prevent infection in open wounds. It's great for cuts, bug bites, scrapes and the like (should not be used on persons allergic to iodine). One fluid ounce container designed for easy application fits most first aid kits; \$.75 each or three for \$2.

Add \$3 per order for shipping and handling in the continental U.S. and \$4 per order to Alaska, Hawaii & Canada. Order from Sierra Supply, Dept. ASG, P.O. Box 1390, Durango, CO 81302; (303) 259-1822. •

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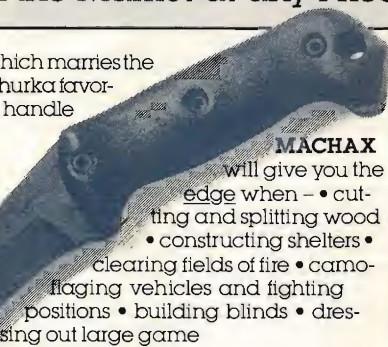
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Staff Report

Last November we featured the Draeger M-65/NATO gas mask, a top of the line mask that is produced by one of the world leaders in the manufacture of gas masks, respirators and scuba equipment — Draeger of Lubeck, Germany. NITRO-PAK Survival Foods & Supplies has acquired a similar mask to the M-65. In fact, it is the model preceding the M-65 and has most of the same features: large peripheral and forward vision replaceable eyepieces; speaker diaphragm for clear, audible speech; five-way adjust-

able, quick release head harness; and filter placement which permits rifle firing.

These masks were manufactured in 1977 and come in their original wrapping. The NBC rated filter protects against lachrymogenic gases and particulates and is sealed for long term storage. NITRO-PAK is offering these excellent quality gas masks for \$39.95 plus \$3.50 shipping. If you buy two the price is even better — two for \$72 plus \$5.75 shipping and handling. Contact: NITRO-PAK Survival Foods and Supplies, 11018 E. Rosecrans Ave. Suite #300, Norwalk, CA 90650; (213) 929-4705. •

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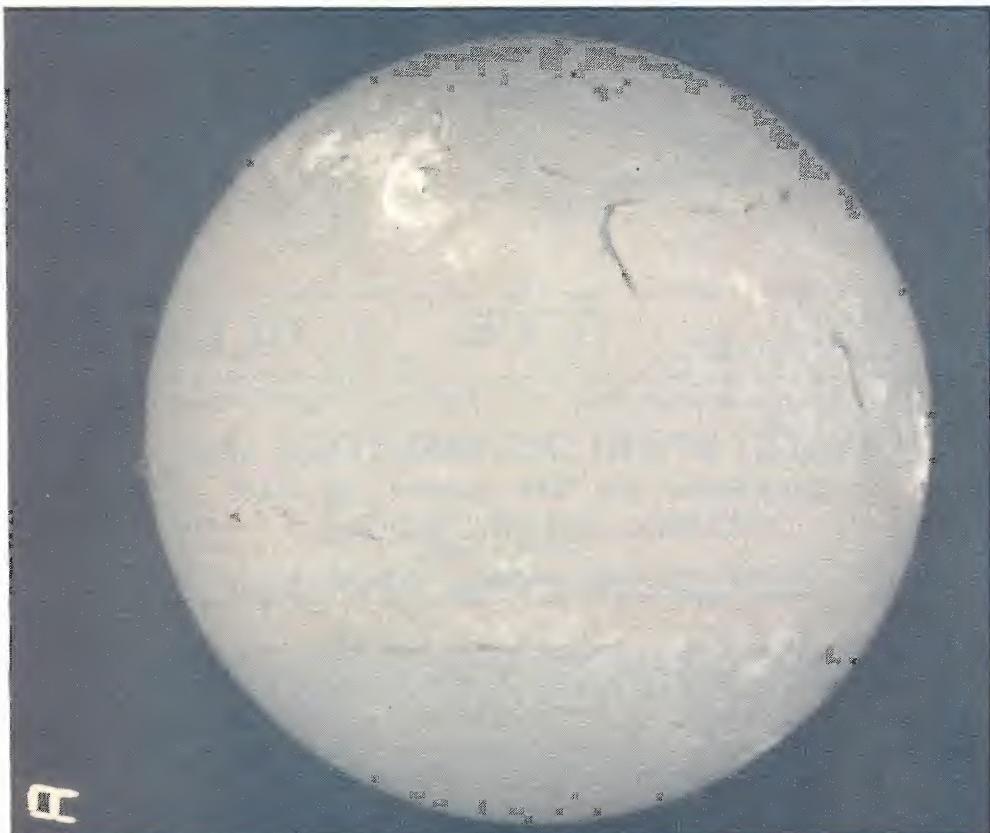
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Bad Weather:

Solar Flares

Lessons learned from a blackout...



The sun, showing the great solar flare of April 28, 1978 (upper left) which was only slightly weaker than the great flares of March 6 and 10 of this year. All these flares produced comparable geomagnetic and ionospheric disturbances (Courtesy of National Research Council of Canada).



High-rise buildings such as this one in Montreal switched to limited power when a solar flare-induced blackout hit that city.

By Eon Fraser

THE Soviet Chernobyl disaster could be a piker compared to what the Sun is up to.

Massive solar flares so far in 1989 have generated 148 mile-an-hour winds in northwest Scotland in mid-February, destroying much of the fishing fleet. Another huge solar discharge on March 11 hit the earth on March 13, causing bright red Aurora Borealis displays as far south as Texas.

It also included a gross overload that exploded five major transmission lines and caused a failure of the gigantic James Bay power grid that serves the whole Quebec province and parts of New England, causing in turn a collapse of electric power to some 6

million people, 2.5 million of whom lived in the city of Montreal, leaving homes without heat and light and high-rises with no elevators, all at sub-zero temperatures.

This wasn't a brown-out that could be corrected easily by disconnecting electrical sub-areas, it was a blackout, caused by huge electrical overloads magnetically induced by a system beyond man's control. The same massive solar flares brought floods over most of Australia followed by weather there cold enough to kill many freshly-shorn sheep. And low-flying satellites are crashing earlier than expected. Scientists at Canada's National Research Council say that the sunspot cycle that causes these flares, the largest known in history, will continue for four years. Another really big flare in mid-March happened when it was pointing away from the earth — luckily for us.

The electrical blackout stalled Montreal's underground mass transportation system, killed newspaper presses, traffic lights, and everything else that was actuated or driven by electricity. The Metro's 150-hp emergency generators could only power emergency lights, signals and radio communications but not the electric trains stalled in the underground tunnels. Hospitals had power for some basics from auto-start emergency generators. Tenants in major buildings had to use the stairs because high-rise auto-start emergency generators have only enough power for emergency lighting, and to handle one elevator that is reserved for firemen. The other elevators cycle to ground zero and quit. So mostly things were very black and very cold.

Radio stations kept operating using emergency generators but outputs were way down, only 10,000 watts. So the FM station you may rely on for news, if you live in the country, could be out of range in an emergency. Having an AM radio or short wave radio capable of accessing amateur bands is wise.

The power outage also downed electronic banking networks and other electricity-dependent operations. Suddenly bank depositors in affected banks couldn't even access their own money. Computers were down, teller's drawers that locked electronically in a fail-safe mode couldn't be opened. Some had manual backup systems. Battery operated phones with remote units began to dial random numbers as the batteries died. One dialed 911 and the police had to break down the door to find what was wrong. Burglar and security alarm systems began to actuate alarms all over the city as their batteries became exhausted. The police recorded 1,200 false alarms but, because the blackout started in the early morning, no looting or break-ins. Traffic lights were dead so police had to revert to directing traffic by hand. The main water supply kept going on its own large diesel generators that drive the pumps.

Of the communication networks, telephones kept working because the local Bell Canada telephone system has enough emergency generating capacity, enough to run elevators, fire alarms, etc., as well as the telephone exchanges. Jack Curran of Bell Canada, asked about more extended blackouts said, "We all hope that they are not going to happen." Large businesses, universities and other organizations with new private phone exchanges also need backup power now to keep their phones in operation.



Microwave towers carry much of today's telecommunications. The loss of one tower can disrupt communications over wide areas.

When the power went off Telex services went "down." Connections to eastern Canada, the U.S. and overseas were cut. Even if the telex exchange has a power backup, it's a battery system that can only run full power for four hours and on half power for eight hours. After eight hours, to quote the senior technician, "We have problems." Also, it only takes 200 telex machines that were operating when the power went off to "seize up" the exchange so nothing can go through.

Fax networks use a more modern switching system and will last as long as phone service is operating. Telephone and fax traffic mostly go via microwave or even satellite today, rather than landlines (the old copper-wire on poles network). Each microwave relay tower, spaced 40 miles apart, has its own diesel generator. In emergencies power restoration priorities go to high speed data transmis-

for water pipes to freeze and burst.

Sleeping bags were added to beds to keep sleepers snug; children jumped into bed together to share their warmth, separate rooms forgotten in the chill. Those families who were best able to cope were those in which the men hunted and fished, who had camp stoves, hurricane lanterns, fuel, warm clothing and sleeping bags ready to hand. Some had kerosene heaters.

In this type of emergency, a portable generator can save your bacon, and your life too. There are various types and sizes. If you want to run only a furnace fan, a refrigerator and a few lights, a smaller size would do, but watch out for starting loads. Here are some power requirements courtesy of the Kohler Company (Kohler, Wisconsin, 53044; phone (414) 565-3381) whose products are also sold and serviced in Canada:

How much do you need?

Average Wattage Requirements	Motor Starting Load Load (Watts)	Operating Load (Watts)
Coffee maker		800
Fan (attic)	900	300
Fan (Furnace)	750	250
Food Freezer	900	300
Frying Pan		1200
Refrigerator/freezer	1000	300
Space heater		1500
Sump pump		300
Water pump	1500	500
Computer		250

sion networks that carry data transfers between banks and other businesses first before telex is restored.

Even as the blackout was nearly over, stores in Quebec sold out of candles, of portable generators and camping gear such as stoves. That province has suffered three major power outages this past winter, so people are becoming much more sensitized. The "lucky" householders were the ones who had installed wood stoves and had a cord of wood cut and dried and ready to burn. Some, whose houses were on the natural gas grid, had gas fires that did not need an electric fan to drive heat through the house ducts. A few had infrared type camp heaters that burn propane. Fortunately temperatures in mid-March, when the hydro was zapped, were only a few degrees below zero Centigrade, not nearly as cold as in mid-winter but still cold to freeze people without any heat. This time the power was not quite off long enough

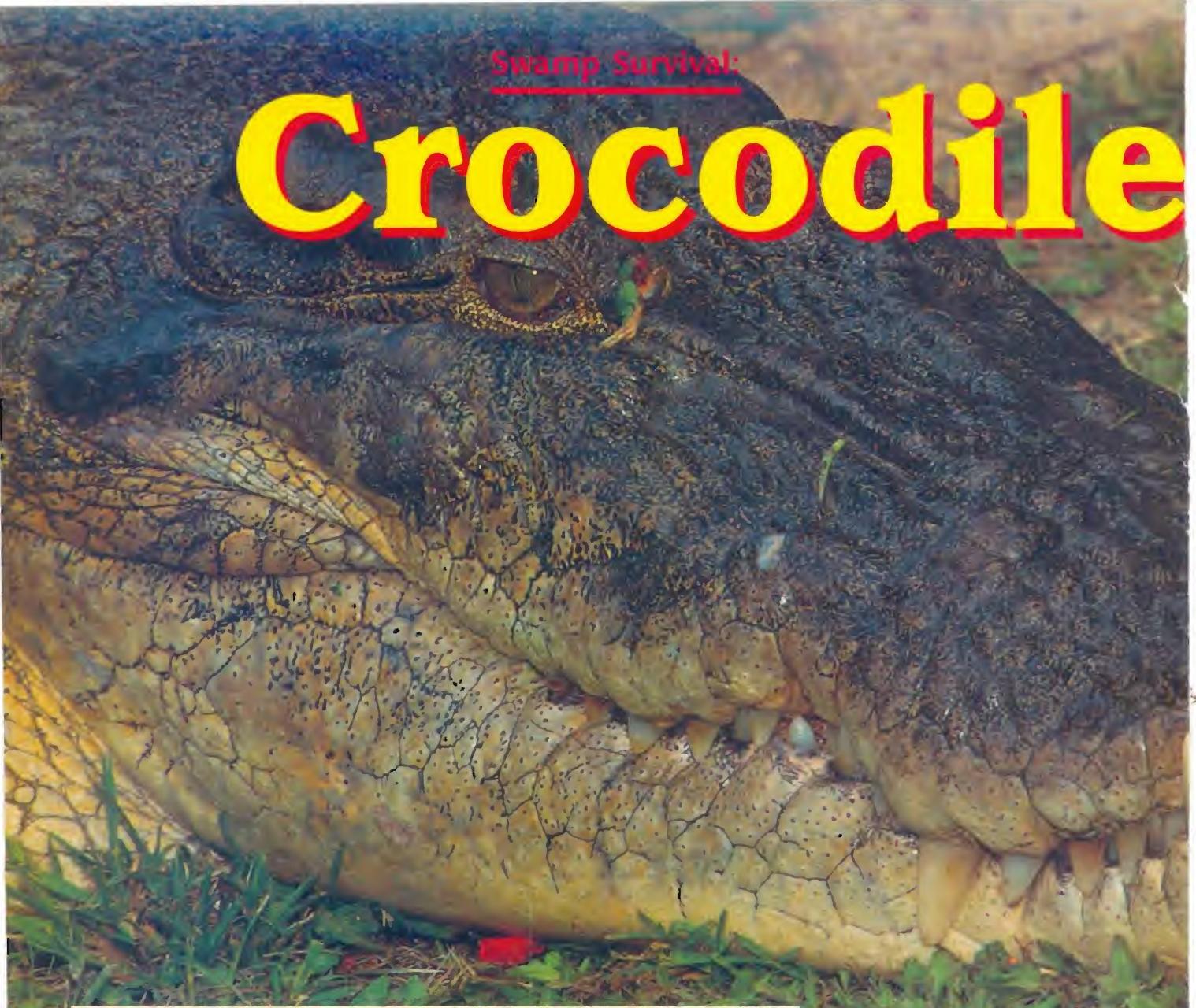
It is important when estimating the power you need to check the continuous output of the generator. One that is rated at 6,300 watts maximum power has only 5,000 watts continuous power rating. An electric-start model might also be worth considering. Many of the engines run at 3,600 rpm. Those that run at 1,800 rpm cost more but are quieter and have longer life.

One of a number of manufacturers, the Kohler Company supplies a convenient unit called the *Powerhouse Electric Start, Home Standby System*. It can handle up to 5,000 watts and produces both 120 and 240 volts. Going into a house, the 240 volts would go to the main switch, and be split into two 120 volt circuits. The transfer switch, either manual or automatic, is a requirement of the hydro department. It must be wired so that it will disconnect the house main switch before you can switch in your generator.

(Continued on page 60)

Swamp Survival:

Crocodile



Crocodylus porosus is possibly the most dangerous reptile alive and claims more victims each year than Australia's poisonous snakes.

The crocodile is one of the oldest and most successful creatures ever to inhabit the earth... the world's greatest expert in camouflage and stealth.



Inside these mangrove swamps of Northern Australia, lurks the deadly estuarine crocodile.

Attack!

Escaping from the jaws of death . . .

By Allen Deever



These signs say it all . . . and nobody's joking.



desire fame or have always dreamed of getting your name in every newspaper across the globe — living out Andy Warhol's fantasy of being famous for 15 minutes — go and turn yourself into a snack for a croc.

"But if you prefer anonymity, breathing, eating three big square ones a day, and making the most of things, then don't do anything that is going to make you the Chef's Special on Clive the Crocodile's dinner menu."

When I first arrived in Australia in 1986, the most popular T-shirt at the time was a scoreboard that read: Crocodiles — 3, Dingoes — 1; obviously the crocs were winning. The second most

DEATH takes many shapes but one of the most terrifying is the man-eating estuarine crocodiles such as those (*Crocodylus porosus*) that lurk in the murky recesses of Australia's mangrove swamp waters. Dangerous crocodiles inhabit many parts of the world in tropical areas and knowledge of them could save your life if you should ever happen to encounter one while traveling in these areas.

According to the minister for Northern Development in Australia, "If you

popular shirt among tourists showed a crocodile with a pair of shoes and a camera dangling from its snout. The caption read: "North Queensland — You'll never go anywhere else." For a few that was more than a joke.

In the first four months of that year three victims had already been taken by crocs, and more were to follow. The latest in the line of unfortunates was the wife of the Daintree postmaster. Daintree is a quiet little settlement in the heart of the tropical rain forest, just north of Cairns.

It seems she had a number of guests visiting and one sweltering evening they wanted to swim in the peaceful Daintree River outside. The postmistress warned them of the dangers, but they insisted they'd heard it was safe to swim in large numbers, and perhaps they were right. In almost all instances of crocodile attacks the victim was either alone or with one other.

Still nervous about her guests, the postmistress sat on a small barge dangling her feet over the side, supervising the activity of the swimmers. It was then that disaster struck. All anyone knew for certain was that there was a scream and a loud splash, and the postmistress was gone. An intensive search was made of the tranquil river, but all that could be found of her — two week's later — was a hank of hair, a fingernail, and a knee cap. I might add that the postmaster is now happily remarried . . . Life goes on for the living.

Earlier that year a woman was taken in the Staaten River, in Cape York Peninsula, as well as a man as he slept near water in the country's Northern Territory. These attacks aren't all that rare, for neither are crocodiles.

Louie Komsic is a Yugoslav-born Australian who migrated Downunder in 1961 to create an international legend. Louie Komsic is the real "Crocodile Dundee," a rough and tough character straight from the pages of an Outback adventure book. Throughout his crocodile-skinning career, a career that spans 13 years in North Queensland's desolate swamps, it's estimated he has shot 14,000 crocs — more than any other living man — before they were declared a protected species in the 1970s.

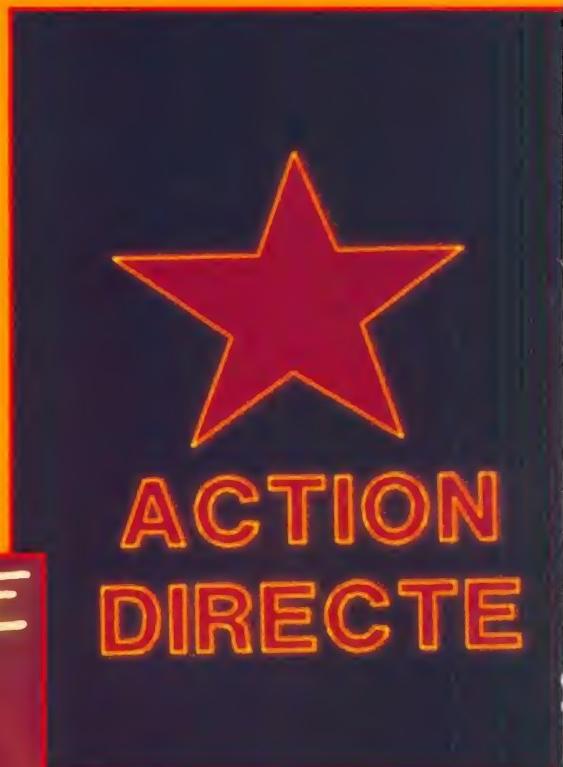
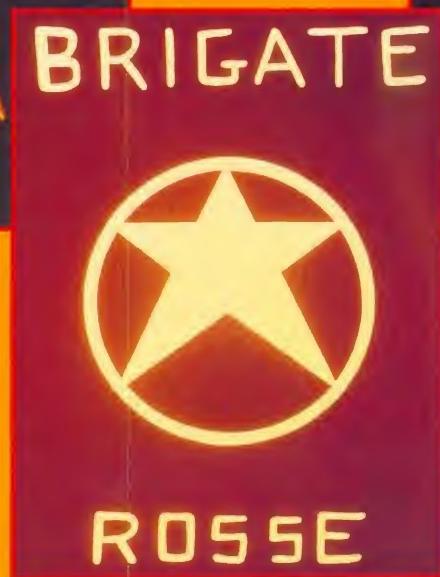
That Louie is still alive and "limbo intacto," as they say, is evidence that one's chances of survival in crocodile country is directly proportional to his knowledge of crocs. Exposure to danger isn't nearly as dangerous as ignorance

(Continued on page 64)

NATO Targeted:

Euro-Terrorists

An active Fifth Column is already in place in Western Europe and an ominous change of strategy has been detected in the pattern of attacks by Europe's leading terrorist groups...



Logos of three Euro-terrorist groups.

By Carl H. Yaeger

FOR 40 years, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has been Western Europe's shield against a possible Soviet military attack. The solidarity of the 15 NATO nations has helped the organization to accomplish its primary mission: to deter a conventional or nuclear attack on Western Europe by the Soviets.

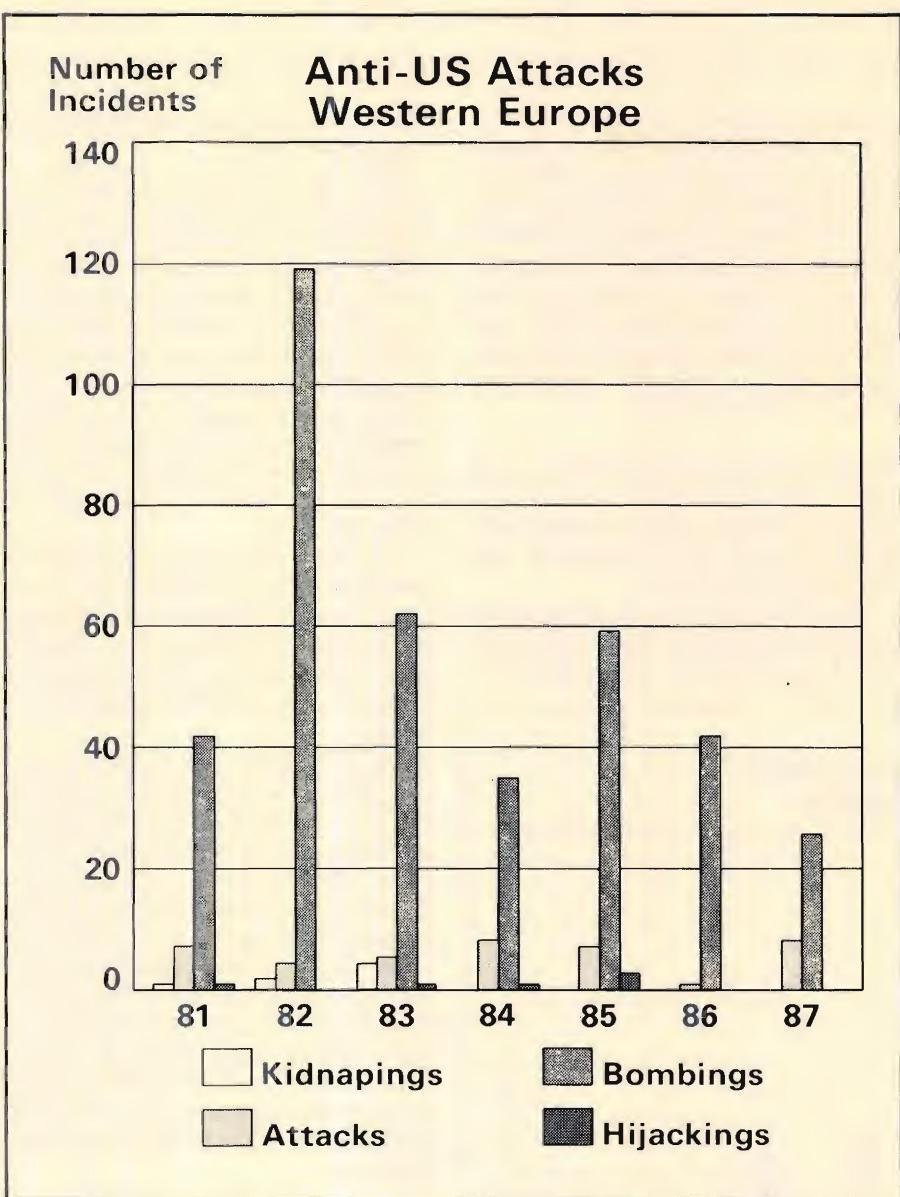
NATO policies have gone through a series of modifications to face the

surge of Soviet military technology and the threat level. In the 1950s and 1960s, the defense policy was Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) based on the trip-wire/massive retaliation concept. If any Soviet forces attacked any NATO member, then NATO would launch an all-out retaliatory blow

against the Soviet Union. This would include the full strategic arsenal of the United States. Naturally, the Soviets would strike back with what they had, but we hoped that the retaliation threat would work... that they would not take the risk, and they didn't.

When the Soviet Union reached nuclear parity with America, MAD gave way to the more realistic policy of flexible response. Now, instead of having only the option of assured destruction, NATO could "tailor-make" the response according to the nature of the threat.

From the late 1970s until the present, the strategy of forward defense has been the dominant policy. NATO forces would be deployed as far forward as possible in order to blunt a Soviet attack. This policy had some



problems. NATO forces did not have the numbers or the power to defeat a massive frontal assault, and it was based on the assumption that any attack would initially be a conventional attack.

But the forward defense policy remained because it represented a new reality in Western Europe; the reality that the American and the nuclear presence in Europe was wearing thin.

The term "Fifth Column" is of World War II vintage and refers to the traitors, collaborators, and enemy agents already in place within a target nation ready to be attacked. As the enemy column advances, the "Fifth Column" begins its deadly work of subversion and sabotage in order to cripple the target nation's ability to resist.

An active Fifth Column is already in place in Western Europe and an ominous change of strategy has been detected in the pattern of attacks by

Europe's leading terrorist groups. Their strident propaganda and activities are now directed against NATO facilities and personnel. Since the late 1970s, the Euro-terrorist groups have taken advantage of the currents of discontent in Europe as reflected by the upsurge of the anti-nuclear and anti-NATO peace movements with their strong anti-American overtones. America is seen as the center of all evil; the dominating force in the scheme of world imperialism. The U.S. military forces in Europe are portrayed as an occupation army and NATO is only a tool of U.S. control. Therefore, NATO is a legitimate target. Besides, claim the dissidents, NATO has been recently re-organized and configured for offensive actions against Third World "Liberation" movements in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Along with NATO, the facilities of multi-national corporations in Europe

are targeted because of their contributions to the NATO defense effort.

One of the oldest, and by far the most active of Europe's terrorist groups is the Red Army Faction (RAF) of West Germany. The RAF began as the Baader-Meinhoff gang and grew out of the general student upheavals in 1968. Its original leadership was killed or imprisoned, and was all but defunct, but by the mid-1970s, a new and more violent group replaced them.

The RAF is Marxist-Anarchist in ideology, and its organization is multi-level in structure, with a hardcore of about 30 combatants who conduct most of the lethal terrorist actions. They also direct the operations of the "illegal militants," part-timers who carry out lower level bombing attacks. The "support periphery" of the RAF numbers several hundred, and perform such vital tasks as providing safe houses, counterfeit documents, funding, shelter, and medical treatment. A larger number, perhaps thousands, are legal sympathizers and assist in propagandizing for the RAF. Among its ranks are journalists, lawyers and teachers.

The RAF has established wide contacts with other terrorist groups worldwide. It is one of the co-founders, along with the French Direct Action group and the Belgian Combatant Communist Celles, of the Anti-Imperialist Armed Front in Western Europe. A statement by these groups amounted to a joint declaration of war against NATO.

The RAF has launched a variety of bombing and assassination attacks since its declaration of war. Each major operation is the result of detailed planning and professional execution. Typically, their targets include members of West Germany's establishment, such as prominent political and industrial leaders, top scientists in the defense establishment, U.S. military personnel, and NATO facilities.

Revolutionary Cells —The Revolutionary Cells is a more recent West German terrorist group, founded in 1973. The strength of the RZs is its composition of many "after-hours/part-time" terrorists. This gives the RZs a pool of semi-independent strike teams across West Germany which are carefully covered by the appearance of normal civilian life styles.

The targets of preference for the RZs are NATO material targets and their weapon of preference is the time-delayed bomb. This Marxist terrorist group has mastered a wide variety of

Euro-Terrorists

skills such as the manufacturing of improvised explosive devices.

French Direct Action — The Direct Action group was founded in 1979. A Marxist/anarchist group, its goal was the "wrecking of society," particularly French capitalism and militarism. One of the institutions which must be "wrecked" is NATO.

The AD evolved from the French radical groups of the late 1960s and early 1970s such as the Revolutionary International Action Group and the Armed Nuclei for Popular Autonomy.

Because it is more anarchistic than Marxist, Direct Action has a looser and more decentralized organization. In this way, terrorist attacks are planned and conducted by terrorist cells oper-

ating in relative isolation.

It is believed that AD is divided into two wings, one international and one domestic. The international wing, based in Paris, had perpetrated several sophisticated bombings and assassinations, targeting individuals and institutions representing NATO and European defense industries. The domestic wing limits itself to lower-level targets within France.

Belgian — The Combatant Communist Cells (CCC) is the most recent of the Anti-Imperialist Armed Front terror groups, having been founded in 1984 in Brussels, Belgium.

The CCC literally exploded onto the European terrorism stage with a series of spectacular bombings that be-

gan in October 1984 and lasted until December 1985.

The origins of this disciplined Marxist-Leninist group appear to lie in the Belgian political dissent in the early 1980s over such issues as Belgium's role in NATO, defense, economic, ethnic, and environmental policies. Impatience with the government's inability to resolve these problems to their liking, and the belief that terrorism would mobilize leftist opponents of the government and precipitate its downfall, led the more radical leftists to form the CCC.

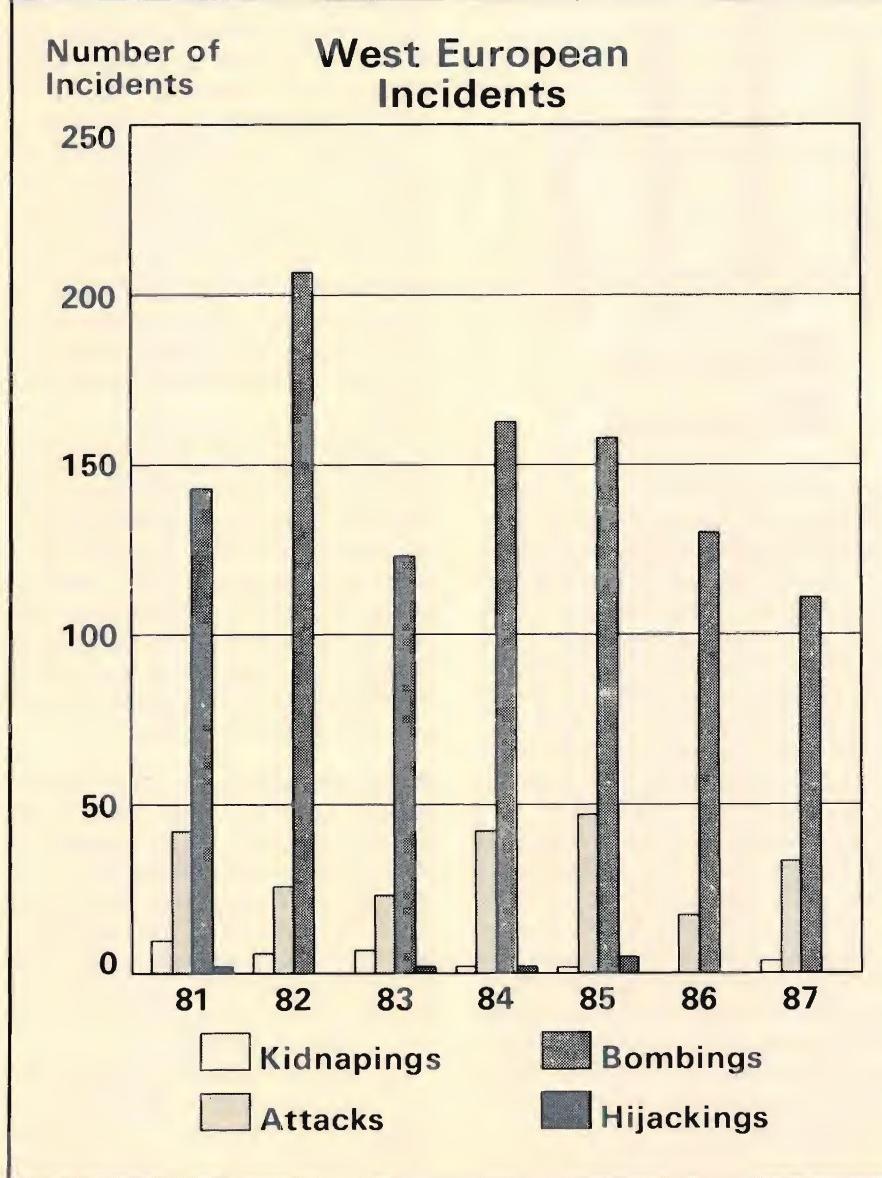
Like other West European terrorist groups, the CCC protests the "Americanization" of Europe and increasing co-operation of NATO nations. The fact that NATO has its headquarters in Brussels makes NATO the prime CCC target.

The CCC, RZs, RAF, and the AD are the core of the Anti-Imperialist/Anti-NATO coalition, but they have formed numerous alliances with other European terrorist groups and have convinced them to include NATO facilities in their shopping list of targets. These allied groups include the Italian Red Brigades, Spain's Basque ETA, and the Irish Republican Army, the Provisional IRA, and the Irish National Liberation Army. The various IRA groups have wreaked havoc on British NATO facilities in Britain, Holland, and West Germany.

New Tactics, Targets — In the past few years, a disturbing new trend has been perceived by terrorist intelligence analysts in Western Europe and the United States. Advanced high-technology research and development centers, computer complexes and key scientists have been targeted by Euro-terrorists. Bombings today account for 60 percent of all terrorist attacks in Western Europe and have been directed at high-tech targets that contribute to Western Europe's defense industries and her economy.

In his recent book, *Technocrimes*, August Bequai notes that there have been 24 bombings of computer centers in West Germany in just one year's time. In addition, there have been attacks on computer centers in France, Belgium and Britain, as well as attacks upon nuclear power facilities.

A dissident group in France known as CLODO, has attacked several com-



puter centers in Toulouse. This area of France is that country's equivalent of California's Silicon Valley. The RAF and the RZs have bombed the facilities of two computer software companies: Scion Control Systems in Frankfort, and MBP in Dortmund. In Belgium, high-tech defense contractors such as Honeywell and Litton Industries have been attacked by explosive devices.

The property and personnel of high-technology companies are singled out for attack because of alleged links with NATO, the South African military and, it is also claimed, the robotics produced by these firms will be used to create massive unemployment.

Experts in terrorist intelligence are claiming that Euro-terrorists are carrying out a Soviet plan to thwart development of the Strategic Defense Initiative, "Star Wars." This terrorist strategy involves not only attacks on SDI research and development centers in Europe, but the outright assassination of the key scientists involved in the program.

Professor Karl-Heinz Beckurts, an atomic physicist and chief of Research and Development for the huge Siemens conglomerate in West Germany, was assassinated by a Red Army Faction strike force. The murder of Beckurts was the beginning of a series of terrorist assassinations of Europe's top SDI scientists.

Beckurt was also known as an uncompromising supporter of nuclear power and therefore, was considered an arch-enemy to Germany's anti-nuclear power movement. The RAF, as well as the other Euro-terrorist groups, have grafted their own operations onto the policies and sentiments of the anti-nuke and environmentalist movements which are fast becoming a potent force in West European politics. Attacks on NATO, high-tech, and SDI scientists are often accompanied by propaganda supporting the anti-nuclear movement, or explanations that they are trying to save European jobs by attacking those high-technology research centers which would replace workers with robotics.

The fundamentalist and militant wings of the various European Green parties, have been reported to have made a tentative and cautious alliance with the Euro-terrorist groups. The alliance is even more pronounced in Germany.

This could create a new criterion for targeting. The German chemical industry, long a target for the Green Party environmentalists, could be the next

target, and the array of targets are indeed staggering. Such huge firms as Bayer, BASF, or Hoechst — all of which have terrible reputations as polluters — could well be on a Green-RAF hit list.

The West German Green Party has demanded a complete ban on all genetic engineering technologies as well as the research involved. Too de-humanizing, they charge. Industries involved in this pioneering field might also become victims.

Another prominent SDI scientist, Dr. Ernst Zimmermann, head of MTU which specializes in high-tech military products and who was the president of the West German Arms Manufacturing Association, was also murdered by the RAF. A police raid on an RAF hideout uncovered a list of 100 possible victims — all prominent scientists and technicians. Also found were intelligence items on pipelines, pumping stations, detailed descriptions on how the vital pump-houses could be entered and where the vital machinery was located. Not only were the main U.S. military installations pin-pointed, but also little out-of-the-way sites such as Bad Tolz, Schwabisch Hall, and Oberammergau.

Information on high ranking personnel, their habits, routes to work and home, as well as dependents led the authorities of the German-Federal Criminal Investigation Bureau (BKA) to conclude that the RAF had a sizable support apparatus actually working on NATO bases.

Another frightening development is the rise of the neo-nazis in West Germany and their program of terrorism. They view the U.S. Army too, as an occupation force and are highly incensed at the number of black troops stationed within Germany. Many of the young neo-nazi terrorists have evolved from a previous group in the 1970s known as "Wehrsportgruppe Hoffman" which had later relocated to Lebanon. This is the same terrorist group which set off a bomb explosion at the Oktoberfest in Munich which killed 13 people and wounded 200.

The Soviet Union has long considered a frontal military assault on NATO's eastern front as too risky — not only because the attack might escalate to a general thermo-nuclear war, but because the chaos of a war in Europe might ignite the suppressed nationalism of the Warsaw Pact nations, not to mention the submerged nationalists within the Soviet Union itself. The recent pro-independence movements in

Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and now Georgia, has not been lost on Soviet military planners. A general war, with the bombs and missiles falling upon mother Russia herself, just might unravel the whole fabric of Soviet society.

In the era of Gorbachev's perestroika and glasnost, a slow war of attrition against NATO, using Soviet-supported proxies, Euro-terrorists, grinding down the SDI program through assassination of key personnel, and the withering of West Germany's economic development, is a safer course and just might achieve the gradual decline and final dissolution of NATO if it is allowed to continue.

SPETSNAZ — To facilitate the process of dissolution, the Soviet Union has added a new and sinister element into the NATO nations — SPETSNAZ, Soviet special purpose troops which, according to many NATO intelligence specialists, are already in place.

The wartime mission of SPETSNAZ is to attack NATO's command, control, and communications systems, but the peace-time mission is to contact anti-NATO terrorist groups and supply support and direction. Soviet SPETSNAZ also recruit new groups and integrate their activities into their overall planning. Two new anti-NATO terrorist groups have recently burst upon the Western European terrorist scene: the Popular Forces 25 April (FP 25) of Portugal and the Revolutionary Organization 17 November in Greece. Both groups are extremely ruthless and efficient and have demonstrated a high degree of expertise in carrying out their operations. Although both have existed in one form or another for several years, their more recent anti-NATO orientation seems to coincide with possible liaison with SPETSNAZ elements.

The Soviet Union will not support or supply Euro-terrorists groups directly. She prefers to work through "surrogates" such as Libya. The SPETSNAZ personnel involved — many of whom adopt the pretext of businessmen or diplomats — help set up the support networks between the surrogate providers and the terrorist groups.

The shield of NATO has been successful in preventing a Soviet invasion of Europe through the policy of collective strength. The question which now arises from this new threat is, can NATO develop the policies, discipline, and forces to defeat the Euro-terrorist assault in its backyard? •

Solar Flares

(Continued from page 53)

The Powerhouse is a 200-lb. unit and comes with an 80-lb. accessories carton containing a wheel kit, a 6-gallon fuel tank, 12-volt battery, a battery rack, a battery charger, a 10-foot long connection cable, a 100-amp manual transfer switch and an outdoor connection box. Import taxes raise the price in Canada to \$3,747 plus installation of the transfer switch and its connection to the house's main switch. In the U.S. it will be less. Installers advise having warning units installed for engine low oil level, overheating, and an "Econo-Throttle" that puts the engine at half-speed when there is no load, for better fuel economy and less wear.

Of course with a smaller generator you can plug an extension cord from the generator to power individual items. But this cannot work with a furnace for example. In colder states and in Canada you would probably elect to use only the essentials: the furnace (to ensure heat), the refrigerator (to avoid food spoilage), a microwave oven or hotplate, so one could cook, and a few lights. Your local generator distributor can recommend an electrician to install a transfer switch that complies with the electrical code.

In a cold area of the country and using a generator such as those advertised by China Diesel in ASG, a generator cooling system could be used to heat the house as well. This could be done by ducting the warm air from the radiator so that it blows through the heating ducts of the house.

If you live near a natural gas supply line you might want to think about using natural gas to fuel your generator. On the other hand the gas net-

work could be ruptured by earthquake or sabotage. Some, who live in the country, already have a large size propane tank, and this will work too. In fact, propane is commonly used in RV generators and gives nearly twice the fuel economy of natural gas. For natural gas or propane, a small adaptor is fitted to the carburetor. The local gas utility's technical staff advised that the idea of hooking a home-power emergency generator up to the house's natural gas line is already being done by a number of companies and could work fine for home too. The gas meter flow would have to be enlarged for the extra load but this is a simple operation performed free by the gas utility.

Blackouts don't need to be so disabling. At the Arctic radio station where I worked some years ago, we didn't need hydro grids, but we needed something that would work year-round. Our communications with other settlements and with "civilization" was by high frequency radio. If voice conditions were too bad we could use Morse code.

Our telephones were "hand-crankers" with a built in hand-cranked generator that rang all the settlement phones at once. Coded rings, such as two shorts and one long, (party-line stuff) let people know who was being called. The house/radio station lights were powered by bank of very large, glass-cased, telephone company type 1.5-volt batteries giving 24 volts and charged by a wind charger. A gas-powered Kohler 120-volt generator with an auto-start circuit was used to operate our (110-volt) transmitters. Standby radio receivers were battery powered. Our room heaters did not require electric-

ity either. They were simple convention-type oil-fired space heaters with no fans. Our cookstove was a coal/wood stove with an oven and side-mounted hot-water tank from which water could be taken with a dipper. To help control heat loss we banked up the outside walls four feet high and two feet thick with snow. In the south, where there's enough earth, an earth berm could provide all-year-round temperature control.

Our water supply couldn't be cut off either. It was from the local lake. Transported by a 40-gallon drum in summer and in winter we cut ice slabs (1' by 4' by 9" thick) from the lake, and piled them up outside. They were brought in as needed and melted in a 10-gallon copper boiler. In southern Canada and the northern U.S. when ice boxes were still in common use, ice was cut with a handsaw or powersaw from the lake in this same way and stored in city icehouses which had double log walls insulated with two feet of sawdust. This is still a good, energy efficient solution in the northern States or in Canada. It's simple, it works and it doesn't need electricity. ●

Computer Protection

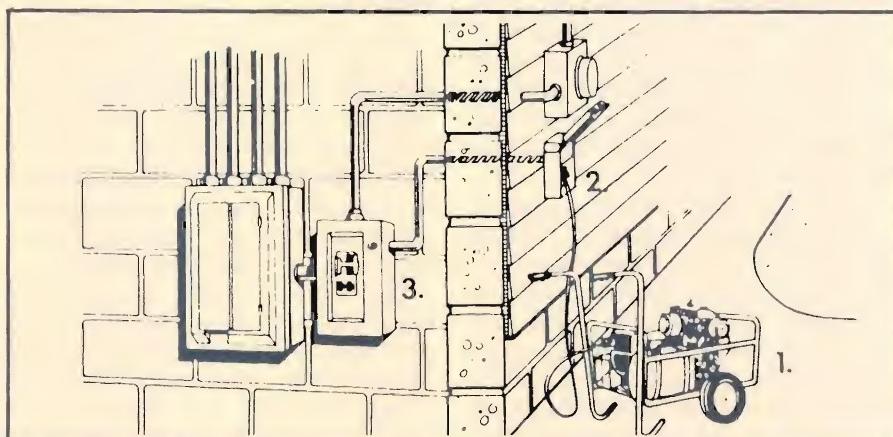
Readers with computers should also have a backup power unit that will allow the computer to be shut down without losing any data or damaging the hard disk in event of electric grid failures.

There are two distinct types: the standby power system (SPS) and the uninterruptible power system (UPS).

An SPS switches to its battery supply when the electricity supplied by the utility company fails. The UPS continuously operates from battery power and does not switch, but simply uses the line voltage to keep the batteries charged. The UPS, therefore will protect all computers from "losing their minds" during brief power outages. Only a select few SPS units will protect some personal computers that have very finicky power supplies (the Zenith made-in-Mexico power supply is one) and react to any power loss by "crashing" because the SPS units don't switch fast enough to keep them running.

Canada's Prime Minister's office uses a UPS-type system, for example. A UPS will also protect against power surges and "spikes" on the line while the SPS units usually pass them along to the computer.

For a PC or XT type computer with a 135-watt requirement you'll need a unit that can supply 250 to 300 VA (volts X amperes) and more is better. An AT type computer needs 400 VA to be safe. There are two types, sine wave or square wave. Square wave inverters are cheaper and easier to make but sometimes cause problems such as overheating the computer power supply. Sine wave types are best. The more modern devices use high-frequency switching designs and are more compact and efficient.



This illustration shows a portable generator hooked up to supply power to a house in the event of a blackout.

GUNMACHINES:

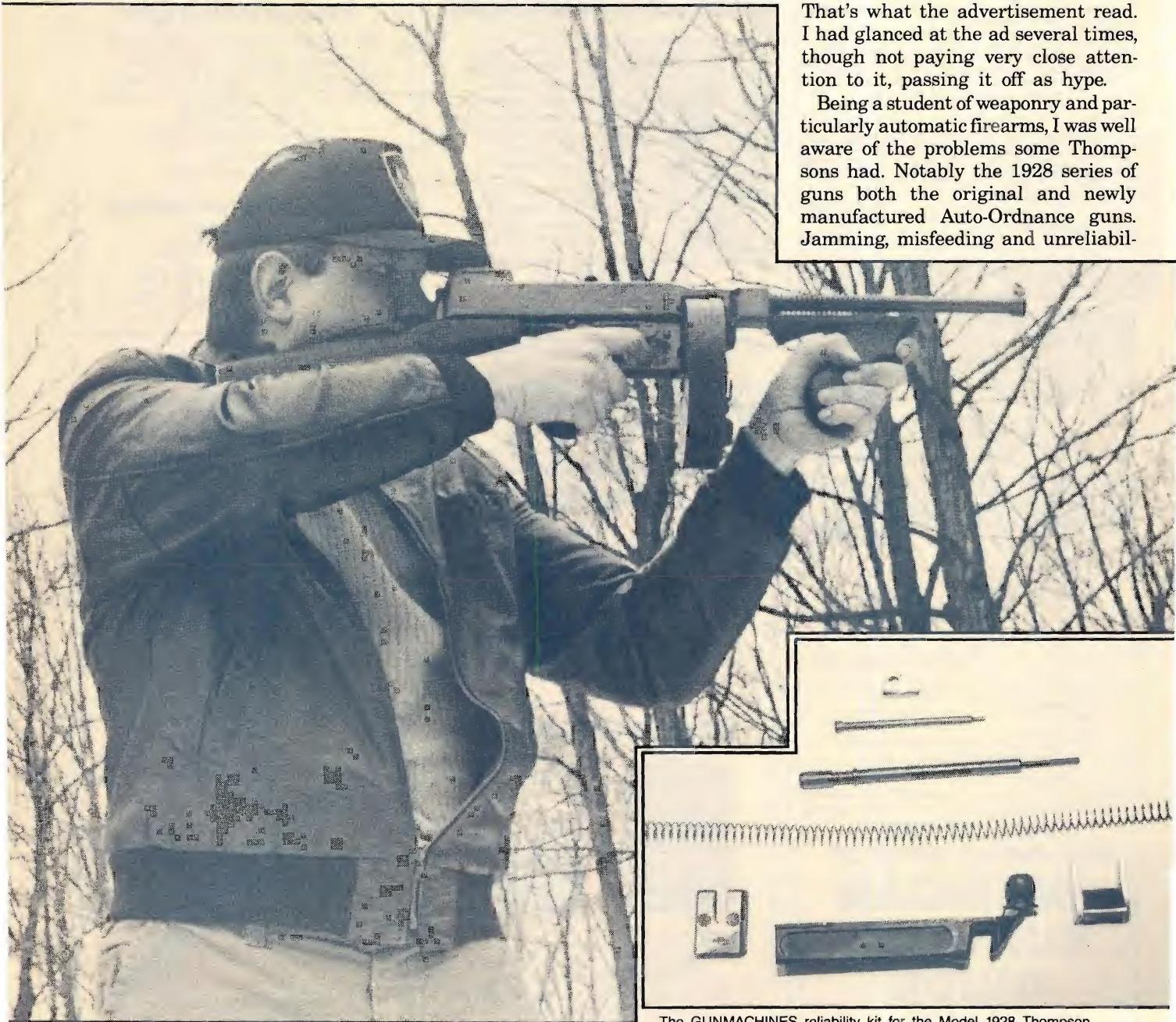
Thompson SMG Parts Kits

*For perfect firing performance from Thompson guns,
including A.O.s...*

By Greg Souchik

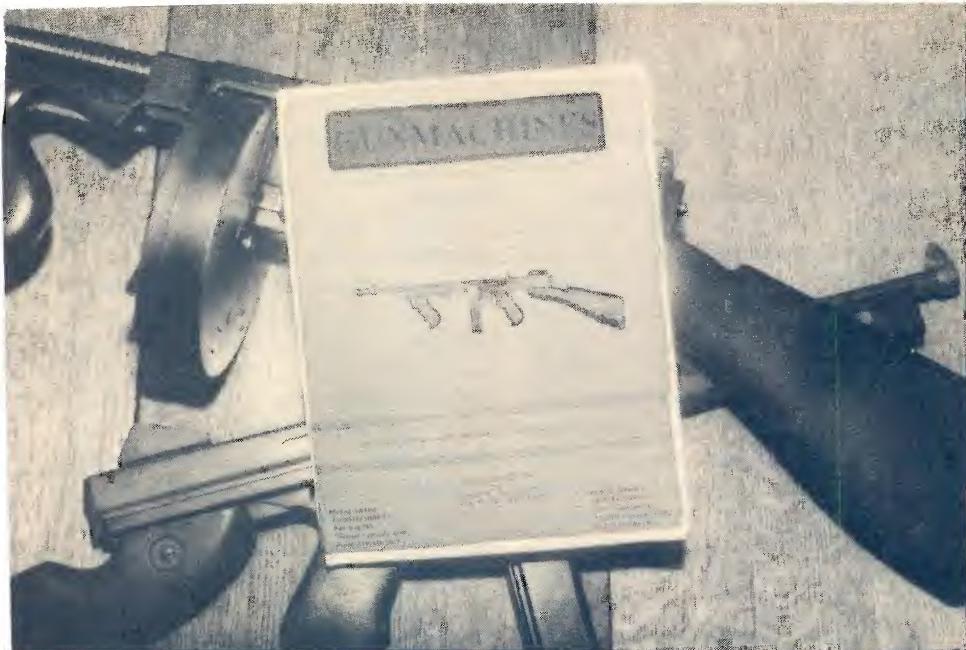
"**W**E make Thompsons WORK! . . . We make Thompsons ROAR!" That's what the advertisement read. I had glanced at the ad several times, though not paying very close attention to it, passing it off as hype.

Being a student of weaponry and particularly automatic firearms, I was well aware of the problems some Thompsons had. Notably the 1928 series of guns both the original and newly manufactured Auto-Ordnance guns. Jamming, misfeeding and unreliabil-



The author fires his Thompson with the GUNMACHINES kit installed.

The GUNMACHINES reliability kit for the Model 1928 Thompson consisting of (top to bottom) hammer, firing pin, telescoping buffer pilot, recoil spring, buffer, actuator and modified blish lock.



The parts kit manual is superbly done and provides a wealth of information. This is a must have book for any Thomson shooter. An expanded 12-step guide is now available.

ity were trademarks of some of these guns. Many worked perfectly, though others did not.

Recently I had the opportunity to inspect a set of upgrade and repair parts for the Thompson built by GUNMACHINES of Trinidad, Colorado. I was impressed with the quality and the construction of the parts and particularly the well done comprehensive manual. Then I noticed it again. "We make Thompsons WORK!... We make Thompsons ROAR!" These were the guys! I was anxious to test these kits.

Investigating further I found out the company, GUNMACHINES, Dept. ASG, P.O. Box 783, Trinidad, CO 81082 (719) 846-3823, and the Thompson upgrade kits are the brainchild of Jim Klodzinski. He actually has several different kits available along with many individual parts. They include: The 1928 Combat Competition Reliability Kit, 1928 Sure-Cycle Reliability Kit, 1928 Ultra-Reliability 1000 RPM Plus Slam-Fire Kit, and a couple of kits each for the 1921 and M1 series Thompsons. A nice feature of these kits is that many of the parts are interchangeable, from one gun to another. All the parts in the kit can also be purchased separately.

I acquired three separate kits for testing, the 1928 Combat/Competition Reliability Kit, The 1928 1000 RPM Slam Fire Kit, and the M1/M1A1 Reliability kit. I own one each of the following Thompsons: 1928 New manufacture, WW II M1A1 and the classic 1921. Though the most practical kit is for the '28, I thought I'd try them all out.

The Thompson in general is noted as a reliable weapon system. The origi-

nal Thompson, the '21, is a masterpiece of precision machine work and usually works first time every time. Although like anything else man-made, you can have problems with this model also. The WW II Thompsons likewise were also dependable mainly due to their simplistic design. The original 1928 series had some problems and these were magnified in the later series 1928s produced by Auto-Ordnance. Let me state for the record that of the three A.O. Thompsons I've personally owned, two worked flawlessly. However, the third one had enough problems for itself and the other two.

The seven areas that these guns seem to have malfunctions in are: feeding, chambering, ignition, extraction, ejection, semi-automatic firing and bolt cycling. All of these problems are covered in GUNMACHINES' "Eleven Step Trouble-Shooting Guide." To further assist you in solving the problem with your Tommy gun the guide is broken down into "Cycling-related"



The author's 1928 Thompson with 50-round "L" drum attached. This laying next to the bed makes a good "house gun."

and "Non-cycling-related" problems within the seven malfunction areas. This guide alone is an invaluable accessory for the Thompson owner.

In order to successfully use the guide it is assumed that four other areas are already taken care of. 1) That you are using good quality ammunition with clean and polished cases; 2) That there are no broken parts and that the springs still have all their resiliency; 3) That there is no dirt or foreign objects in the frame, receiver, barrel or chamber; 4) That your Tommy gun is adequately lubricated.

I installed the GUNMACHINES reliability kit in the '28 Thompson and followed the eleven step guide. I function tested it and the gun seemed to function perfectly. I then proceeded to feed it a variety of ammunition that I had on hand, commercial, military, and reloaded. To my amazement the gun functioned flawlessly. Though I did not fire a high volume of ammo through the gun with kit installed, there was enough variety to convince me that the weapon would work under most circumstances. After firing just under 500 rounds I had only three failures to fire and all three were from bad primers, as they would not fire in an Ingram Model 10 or a Colt 1911A1 pistol.

I found the GUNMACHINES Telescoping Buffer Pilot extremely handy in the 1928 and M1A1; it makes getting that nasty recoil spring back into the gun very easy. From the design of the buffer you can visualize how it would keep that spring from binding. On some of the later A.O. '28s it was very difficult to install this spring without getting a bind. This little device stops that. So even if your Thompson works perfectly this Buffer pilot would be worth having.

I did some experimenting and swapping parts between the three guns and found that all the interchangeable parts did what they were supposed to do. It should be mentioned that all of the GUNMACHINE parts are just that, "parts." They require no ATF approval, nor do you need an FFL to buy them. They will NOT convert a semi-automatic Thompson into a full auto version. They are strictly full auto replacement parts.

By following the manual and the extensive instructions that come with each kit anyone with a sick Thompson should be able to cure its ills. Because it is true what they say. They do make Thompsons work and they do make them ROAR! ●

Crocodile Attack!

(Continued from page 55)

of danger. The more one knows of any potential threat, the greater are his odds of surviving it. To know the tactics of the enemy — be he man or crocodile — is to take away his element of surprise, and put him on the defensive instead of the offensive, and that's the best place to handle him.

Louie's *modus operandi* was to quietly paddle his dinghy through the dark estuarine swamps at night, using a miner's light attached to a hard hat to illuminate the telltale bright orange of their eyes. After spotting one he would continue to drift as close as possible before administering the final blow to the giant lizard with a lethal dose of lead between the eyes, injected with an open-sighted .303 rifle. Just what the doctor ordered.

The croc would usually sink to the bottom like a rock, yellow belly up, whereupon Louie would strip down and dive in after it. In an interview with *Trek North* paper, he said, ". . . there was no other way to do it. Sometimes when I dive down, I see other crocs lying there — and they look at me — but I was never attacked."

According to Louie, the secret of his longevity was knowledge of the water courses and nature around him. "I used to study crocs and the other animals. I've seen them take wallabies, big bulls, and some horses."

It's knowledge of the environment that keeps the native Aborigines alive. In the past 80 years only 10 known fatal crocodile attacks have occurred; a significantly low number considering the amount of time the Aborigines' spend in and around dangerous waters. Anthropologist Viv Sinnamon, adviser to the Kowanyama Aboriginal Council, attributes these low fatality figures as an indication of the Aborigines' ability to "read" crocodiles.

Crocodile Facts — Actually, there are two types of crocodiles in Australia, freshwater crocodiles (*Crocodylus johnstoni*), and our friend the saltwater or estuarine croc. To the locals, the estuarine crocs (the genuine mean mothers that know how to put a crimp in your style) are referred to as "gators," to distinguish them from the more sedate freshwater crocs. In some localities they may also be referred to as "mangrove geckoes" or "underwater frillies." The irreverent and good-humored Aussies have a strange habit of making light

of what's most serious to them.

Actually "saltwater croc" is a misnomer. *Crocodylus porosus* is an "any kind of water" croc, however, it prefers the brackish waters of swamps and tidal rivers, and is common along the coast. The freshwater croc is distinguished from its bigger cousin not only by size (rarely does it ever exceed six feet), but by a narrow snout and the single row of four large scales that protrude directly behind the head; and as the name implies, it is found only in freshwater creeks and billabongs (small ponds). Also, there's never been a single reported case of attack on a human by *Crocodylus johnstoni*. "Not that it might not happen from time to time," said one local. "We just don't report it."

Crocodylus porosus, on the other hand, is proof that at least in one part of the world, dinosaurs still roam the earth. "The biggest one I shot was 19 feet, 10 inches long, and I got him on

IF A CROCODILE DOES ATTACK YOU, NEVER ASSUME IT'S ALL OVER . . .

the Jardine River," said Crocodile Louie. "I saw another one a friend had shot that was 23 feet long." Any one over two meters (six-and-a-half feet) is potentially lethal.

Louie is a strong proponent of selective culling by professional shooters. "The aggressive crocodiles, the ones which will take people, are the ones shooters will get first anyway. They will always attack. You can call them up or pretend you are injured in the water and they will attack, and you just shoot them when they are a few feet away."

It's a legitimate question if the total protective ban on crocodile hunting is causing this species to be more dangerous. But while biologists debate this, the outdoorsman can take a few simple precautions to greatly minimize the risk in croc country:

- Always camp at least 200 feet from the water.
- Either fish from a high bank or stand well away from the water, and don't throw the scraps of cleaned fish into the water near where you're

camped.

- Don't drag bait nets in known crocodile waters.
- Swim only in clear, shallow water.
- Don't set a "pattern." Experienced "bushies" will tell you that crocodiles aren't dumb, and that the person who makes a habit out of drawing water out of the same spot at the same time several days, is setting himself up for troubles. It only takes twice to set a pattern and creatures of the wild have amazing biological clocks and seem to possess an uncanny knack for the telling of time.

Don't let lack of a pattern give you a false sense of security, however. Generally speaking, the fatalities of the last several years have been "one-offs," people who were taken on their first visit to the area. It's a good idea, when getting water in known crocodile waters, to tie a length of rope to a bucket and throw that in, instead of wading down at the water's edge yourself.

Never rely on sight for safety. The big crocodiles generally inhabit murky waters, and although you can't see them, they can see you . . . and they're perfectly adapted for stalking. The pattern of their scales sets up a counter wake to their movement in the water, leaving no wake in their trail, even when swimming. This means that all you might see is muddy still waters, even while one is closing in on you.

Locals who know about crocodiles will tell you to run in a zig-zag pattern if chased by one, because the crocs heavy bulk and closeness to the ground prevent it from changing directions easily. But considering that a crocodile can accomplish short bursts of speed at over 30 mph, you'd better be able to zig-zag awfully fast.

The Ministry for Northern Development gives this piece of advice if ever you find that you have to swim a river or creek known to be inhabited by a crocodile:

"Try and do the swim with a dog. There is every chance that if the crocodile attacks, he will take the dog. Fido, of course, probably won't go into raptures about it."

If a crocodile does attack you, never assume it's all over. It's never time to kiss your *gluteus maximus* goodbye as long as the spark of life is still kindled. According to Viv Sinnamon, "The Aborigines knew crocs. They

didn't fold up and let themselves be killed when taken by one. They say the best thing to do is fight."

A number of true-life examples abound. The time Patrick Eric got taken he evened the score. Patrick lived with his family out in the bush. One day, when his father set off on a hunting expedition, he ordered Patrick to stay behind. The young boy, being eager to hunt for his tribe, made his way across the Mitchell River after them. About half way across the croc hit, dragging him underneath.

Instead of becoming a saurian snack, the young boy began poking the croc in the eyes with his finger and attempted to pull out the croc's tongue with his hands. When the surprised crocodile let go, he immediately dove to the bottom stirring up the river mud as a screen before a counter-attack could be launched, then scrambled up the banks to safety. A bit worse for wear, no doubt, but very happy to be alive.

More than one person has gone one round with a crocodile and walked away. In 1946, three friends, Joseph Peter, Teddy Roger, and Black Dog were spearfishing in the Mitchell River when suddenly the water broke and Black Dog was dragged down by a huge croc. Instinctively, Joseph Peter lunged his spear into the "gator" before it headed for deeper waters to disappear.

Not willing to say "die," Black Dog snapped a section of the ironwood spear off and began jabbing its jagged end, again and again, into the croc's eye. Caught off guard, the croc let go and Black Dog immediately swam to shore. Alas, a femoral artery had been severed and he died beneath a riverside tree a short while later. Fate is not always fair.

Could we say that this is proof of the maxim, "Survival of the fittest?" Not really. Survival rests more on the smartest and quickest... even in the jaws of a crocodile.

If planning a trip to Australia and intending to spend some time in the bush, the best place to learn first-hand information on the habits and locations of crocodiles (and do so the easy way) is on a crocodile tour. One of the best is conducted out of Cairns (gateway to the Barrier Reef), and takes the croc watcher cruising down the Daintree River where the postmistress was taken, then afterwards goes to a crocodile breeding farm where one can get hard-core information from true experts. For more information call Australia toll-free: (800) 937-1068. ●

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Mountain Man Survival

(Continued from page 27)

hips, plums and nuts and when times were hard he lived off whatever else was at hand — roots, bark or even beaver skins.

Fur trapping was split up into two seasons: the first was in the fall when the animal's light summer coat was replaced with a prime winter coat of thick fur. This lasted until the streams froze solid. While waiting for the ponds to thaw out the trapper retired to a crude canvas tent or small log cabin and spent the worst of the winter preparing the skins for market. When the ice broke up, he was back out again wading in the ice water and

training was finely honed as a member of the Lewis and Clark expedition, (an amazing two year journey to find a commercial route across the Rockies to the Pacific coast). On their return to St. Louis, he got permission to leave the expedition and go back into the wilderness with two beaver trappers as their "technical advisor."

Soon after this partnership dissolved he joined Manuel Lisa's trapping party in the Rockies. In 1808 while trapping near the Jefferson Fork of the upper Missouri river, he and a companion, John Potts, were suddenly confronted by over 500 Blackfeet warriors. His

he had outrun every pursuer except one. As the lone warrior gained ground and was about to overtake him, Colter maneuvered, tripped him, and killed the Indian with his own lance. He continued to run at full speed to the river and dived in. When the Blackfeet search party arrived they scoured the shoreline but found no trace of the mountain man.

Colter had hid under a driftwood raft and then later that night he swam about five miles downstream. When he hit the beach he was running again. Seven days later he arrived at Lisa's fort, naked, half-starved and feet full of festering thorns. He had covered 150 long, torturous miles with only a raw desire for survival to overcome the obstacles.

The mountain men survived by blending into their environment. For many, just being out in the beautiful untamed wilderness was reason enough to continue in such a hazardous occupation. Most importantly, they learned the Indian's language and customs and were constantly improving their hunting and warfare skills. Many took an Indian girl to wife, and a few actually played Indian full-time and lived with the tribes.

Each summer a rendezvous was held where the traders and trappers came together to do business. Although the trappers earned huge amounts of money for their pelts, it was the traders who usually ended up rich. Outfitting supplies such as tobacco, coffee, sugar, gunpowder and lead were marked up over 500 percent compared with prices in St. Louis. The traders had a virtual monopoly going in rendezvous concessions and unless the trapper wanted to travel over a thousand miles to sell his pelts, he simply spent his money in the mountains and came away broke.

The rendezvous was also the time when the mountain men could let down their guard and blow off steam. For a whole month they talked, bragged, held shooting contests, gambled and spent the rest of their money on whiskey and the local Indian girls. As the rendezvous wound down they packed up and headed out for another perilous year in the mountains.

Because the mountain men traveled through stretches of wilderness unknown to outsiders, many became trailblazers and scouts for those seeking new routes to the west. Two of



This woodcut from *Indian Anecdotes and Barbarities* is a fanciful rendering of John Colter's escape from Blackfeet Indians.

snow to service his trapline.

The life of a mountain man was far from glamorous. It was at times miserable, dangerous, and just plain hard work. Many trappers developed rheumatism from the constant immersion in ice water. Many died of drowning, infected injuries, dysentery, small pox, hydrophobia, tetanus and accidental or intentional gunshots by their companions. They also fell off mountains, were bitten by rattlesnakes, or mauled by grizzly bears. And then there was the constant threat of Indians.

John Colter, one of the very first mountain men, had a terrifying encounter with Blackfeet Indians that has become legend. His wilderness

partner tried to resist and was instantly riddled with arrows and killed on the spot. Colter was taken prisoner and stripped naked.

After discussing various ways to torment and torture him, a chief asked Colter how fast he could run. Colter replied that he was a terrible runner, like a turtle — while the fact was, he had a reputation of being very fast on his feet. They told him to run for his life and gave him a 30 second head start before setting out to mutilate him.

Colter sped off, ignoring the pain of running barefoot through prickly-pear thorns and the rocky scree of the canyon, he headed for the Jefferson Fork six miles away. After three miles

these men show a stark contrast in the way they planned and executed expeditions westward. Their methods of survival are also enlightening.

Jedediah Smith was one of the best fur trappers of his day. In the 1824-1825 season he brought in some 668 pelts, which was probably a record for a single mountain man. He later joined with two partners and bought William Ashley's fur business. It was agreed that while the other two partners worked the central Rockies, Jed Smith would lead an exploring party to the southwest for new trapping country. Smith took 15 men from Salt Lake and pushed south through the Wasatch Mountains into a country of sagebrush and desert. Smith himself described it as "a Country of Starvation." They eventually crossed the

by the Mexican government.

Jed Smith was able to get out with the help of an American sea captain and he latter returned to the Bear Lake Rendezvous in 1827 with only three men, 11 had been left stranded in California.

That summer Smith went back to rescue the men stranded in California and took a new group comprised of 18 men and two women. Unfortunately he made the same mistakes, had a terrible journey down, and got thrown into prison again in San Diego. After getting freed, he led his men northward out of California only to have 15 killed by Indians along the Umpqua River. Of the three years Jed Smith had tramped the southwest, 26 out of 33 had been killed and two had deserted him. He failed to learn from his

character of the Indians very well — was kind and affable to his men, but at the same time at liberty to command without giving offense — and to explore unknown regions was his chief delight."

Walker believed in being heavily provisioned: each man was mounted, and each led three additional horses packed with "every article necessary for the comfort of men engaged in an expedition of this kind." On the Bear River, four days after they had left the rendezvous, Walker had his men hunt game until each man had added 60 pounds of dried and jerked meat to his pack.

Another tactic that Walker used was that of asking the local Indians for information on the unknown country they hoped to traverse. Even though the going was hard, they picked the safest route through Nevada by following the Humboldt River. When the men came to the wall of peaks comprising the Sierra Nevada range (some over 14,000 feet) they ran low on food and had to butcher two horses before continuing across the snow laden mountains.

For three weeks they struggled through the snow as they beat a path over the mountains. Finally they were rewarded with an awesome sight. They became the first white men to gaze into the glacier-cut valley called Yosemite. Although the view was spellbinding, there was the problem of descending the monolith walls to the valley below. They had to rig up ropes around their horses and lower them one by one. Even after they had gotten over the rocks the course down was steep and difficult. Joe Walker was so impressed with Yosemite that he had the epitaph on his headstone read: "Camped at Yosemite, November 13, 1833."

Once in the Sierra foothills they were able to rest up and with plenty of deer, elk and bear, they found plenty of food for the rest of the trip to the Pacific Coast.

Joseph Walker's expedition had been handled with great skill and although his party had traversed some very dangerous country he had done it without the loss of one man. His prestige as a frontiersman grew steadily throughout his life, so much so that he became the epitome of the ideal mountain man.

Although the days of the mountain men were comparatively short, their lessons of survival and the daring spirit they exhibited will long be remembered. •



A modern mountain man takes aim with his black powder rifle.

Colorado River and followed the left side of the river into the Black Mountains of Arizona. With little food, they were in a dangerous position. In his own journal Smith wrote that he "had lost so many Horses that we were all on foot — my men & the remainder of my Horses were worn out with fatigue & hardships & emaciated with hunger."

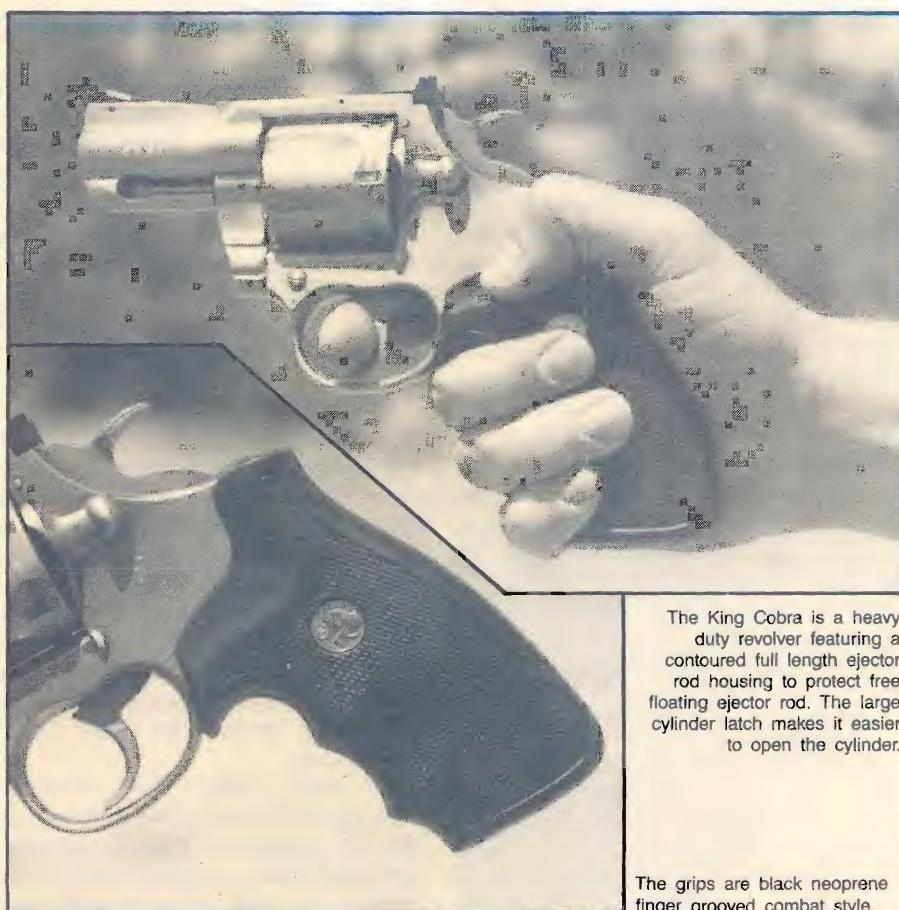
They eventually stumbled into a camp of Mojave Indians who resupplied them and directed them to the California Missions for more horses and supplies. Crossing the Mojave Desert was a grueling 15 day trek for the men. They suffered terrible thirst and hunger and lost nearly all of their horses. When they finally arrived on the West Coast they were immediately thrown in jail

own mistakes, made terrible errors in judgment, and relied too heavily on mountain man grit and tenacity to make it out alive.

On the other hand, Joseph Reddeford Walker was probably the most successful and talented of all mountain men. At the Green River rendezvous of 1833 he proposed an expedition to find a route westward to the coast of California — not the dangerous southern route taken by Jed Smith, but a more direct route across Nevada and into the Sierras. One of the 40 men that accompanied Walker was Zenas Leonard and he described his leader as follows: "Mr. Walker was a man well calculated to undertake a business of this kind. He was well hardened to the hardships of the wilderness — understood the

King Cobra .357 Revolver

(Continued from page 24)



Sights are a red ramp insert front blade and white outline square notch rear adjustable for windage and elevation.

ger is pulled all the way to the rear. This prevents the gun from discharging if the thumb should slip off the hammer while it is being cocked or the gun were to be dropped on the hammer spur. The safety works by creating a space between hammer and firing pin. The safety connector moves up behind the firing pin when the hammer is cocked and remains there

if the trigger is squeezed and held in the firing position. When the hammer moves forward, it strikes the safety connector which transmits the hammer energy to the firing pin to fire the revolver. If the trigger is released before the hammer is fully cocked the safety connector will withdraw to prevent the hammer energy being transmitted to the firing pin. Following the

basic rules of firearms safety, of course will prevent tragedy should this safety mechanism fail for any reason.

We tried out a King Cobra with 2½-inch barrel and matte stainless finish recently with some Miwall .38 Special and Federal and Hornady .357 cartridges — all 125-grain jacketed hollow points.

I fired the gun at silhouette targets 7 yards away from us using a standing position in quick aimed fire and rapid fire sequences. My groups were high and to the left of the center of mass of the targets each time but they were consistent with all loads fired in the quick aimed mode. My rapid fire groups were all over and off the target with all loads.

With its short barrel, this King Cobra has quite a bit of kick to it with the .357 loads, as well as a lot of muzzle blast and flash. Firing this way at night or in an otherwise darkened environment could likely temporarily blind and deafen the shooter — something to think about if you plan on using this gun for self defense.

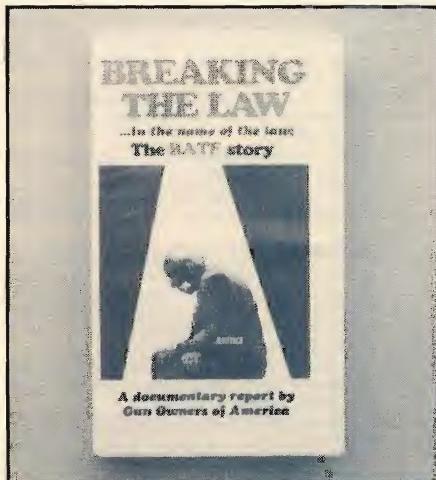
This is a very solid and well made firearm that, with proper care, will last the lifetime of its owner and then some, depending on how much firing and what ammunition is used in it. Small framed and small handed people will find this gun less easy to wield effectively than will large framed types with larger hands. It is definitely one of the finest heavy duty .357 revolvers on the market. ●

Colt King Cobra Revolver: Tech Specs	
Caliber357 Magnum/.38 Sp. (including + P & + P +)
Lengths:	
Barrel	2 1/2 inches
Overall	7 2/3 inches
Height	5 3/4 inches
Width	1 5/8 inches
Weight empty	37.5 inches
Finish	matte stainless steel
Grips	black neoprene finger grooved combat style
Sights	
Red ramp insert front. White outline square notch rear adjustable for windage, elevation	
Price, retail	\$415
Manufacturer	Colt Industries, Firearms Division, P.O. Box 1868, Hartford, CT 06101; (203) 236-6311

BOOKS/VIDEOS

(Continued from page 11)

truction and furnishings. "Digging in" might not only be a good survival plan, but it's also a good ecological plan too. Other green paper titles: *Safe Shelter/Independent Energy; Retreating on a Shoestring; and Retreater's Maps.*



Breaking the Law... in the name of the law: The BATF story; Red Barn Video Productions, P.O. Box 41122, Dept. ASG, Sacramento, CA 95841; (916) 349-1812 or 1814; VHS, 40 minutes, color; \$19.95 plus \$4 shipping and handling; California residents add six percent sales tax.

Here's an outstanding video presentation that documents the harassment and intimidation tactics employed by agents of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF). Live interviews with victims of this persecution reveal the shocking truth about the obvious anti-gun mentality of these bureaucrats, their arrogant disregard of the law, and how they have destroyed the lives of many innocent, law-abiding citizens. The right to "keep and bear arms" is an established and historically protected provision of the United States Constitution. In recent years, this right has fallen under attack by well-meaning do-gooders, leftists in the media, in state and national legislatures, and the uninformed. This tape shows how the BATF agents have joined the left in attacking the freedoms of the law abiding. Their unprofessional behavior and tactics show how they have cowered away from stopping the gun-running drug lords and have concentrated their attacks on easier prey — the innocent citizen. ●

SURVIVALIST DIRECTORY

THIS IS A CONFIDENTIAL listing of survivalists who wish to become known to others of like mind. *American Survival Guide* will accept properly coded mail and forward it to the coded addresses without charge. *American Survival Guide* accepts no responsibility for the contents or results of these confidential communications. Mass mailings are not permitted.

ASG 0801

Downey, California. USA and elsewhere — having communication problems? Get in on the commo net. An exchange of information to get and keep your gear operational. Ham, military, CB, landline, etc. Racists, gays, reds, nuts, etc., need not write.

ASG 0802

Forest Hills, New York. I am a dedicated *American Survival Guide* reader and would like to meet other readers in the N.Y.C. area who are interested in ordering food by the 45 lbs. bucket, #10 can, or MRE pouch.

ASG 0803

Westmoreland, New York. Upstate New York survivalist and family of four wishes to make contact with others. We are interested in all aspects of survival — we have much info to share.

ASG 0804

Savage, Minnesota. Want to form paramilitary group or correspond with others in Minneapolis area. I am very experienced and have my own equipment. No freaks or druggies please.

ASG 0805

Albuquerque, New Mexico. U.S. survivalist wishes to form survivalist group in New Mexico and surrounding states. Men, women, teens, and other survival groups are welcome. Absolutely no communists, nazis, racists, humanists, gays, extremists, drug/alcohol addicts, liberals, "heroes." And must not have any imprisonment records.

ASG 0806

Southwest Idaho. Family and friends interested in self-sufficiency and preparation for possible hard times ahead would like to correspond especially with others in the Nampa-Caldwell-Boise area or anywhere in the U.S. for exchange of facts and ideas and possible local/national linkages and networks. No racists, anarchists, etc.... need apply.

ASG 0807

Escondido, California. Family oriented survivalist wishes to correspond with other survivalists (single or married) who are interested in starting a group and those just wishing to communicate and trade information concerning self-reliance and general knowledge. No neo-nazis, racists or radicals, crazies or zealots.

ASG 0808

Spanaway, Washington. Survival group accepting members from the Seattle/Olympia area. Couples, singles, women with dependents all welcome. Experience helpful, but not necessary. Must be willing to train. No freeloaders, only serious and committed people need apply. Will correspond with others worldwide. Absolutely no racists, neo-nazis, communists, rambos or kooks.

ASG 0809

Vancouver, Canada. Strong and growing Christian paramilitary and survivalist network with links to Christian survivalists from South Africa to Denmark. We would like to establish more contact with our cousins "south of the 49th parallel."

ASG 0810

Chattanooga, Tennessee. Longtime survivalist family, man and wife, want to relocate away from the cities. Looking for someone who has a farm or ranch and needs some honest folks to live on the land. Not just looking for a job, but a life long friendly relationship.

ASG 0811

North Louisiana, South Arkansas. Two well-trained, well-equipped paramilitary type survivalists seeking information on groups to join.

ASG 0812

Sacramento, California. Young ex-Marine and wife

wish to correspond with other Christians and conservatives in the Northern California area who know what is going on and are willing to prepare for the time soon to fall upon us. We are post-tribulationists, have most of our equipment and are ready for anything. Please no liberals, communists, pacifists or gays; just good ole American folks.

ASG 0813

Madison, Wisconsin. Interested in corresponding with other survivalists that maintain a low profile. Would like to form a mutual support/help group to diversify abilities, equipment and locations. A survivalist is more than guns and a retreat, it is preparedness across your entire daily activities, for everyone.

ASG 0814

Bullhead City, Arizona. Interested in hearing from survivalist groups in and around Arizona. Have military, law-enforcement, security, etc., training.

ASG 0815

United States. 20-year-old male with military training wanting to hear from all survivalist organizations. Willing to travel anywhere to join. Lots of knowledge to offer. No gays, communists, satanists or druggies need write.

ASG 0816

Sarasota, Florida. Husband and wife team observing the decline of civilization. Wish to correspond with others about their local situations. Have training and equipment.

ASG 0817

Ontario, Canada. Young couple in their twenties with one child, ex-armed forces with survival training, looking for couples to form retreat in Northwestern Ontario. Couples must have a will to survive and to work as a group. Please send a letter of introduction with your skills listed. No racists, bigots, or crazies need apply.

ASG 0818

Baltimore, Maryland. Survival group located in the Baltimore metropolitan area interested in sharing information and taking part in activities with other groups in the area. Also looking for additional members from Baltimore City, Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Howard, and Carroll Counties. Must have a sincere desire to survive any natural or man-made disaster.

ASG 0819

Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Small survival group that has scientific and technical membership is interested in developing an exchange of information with other groups. Please contact us on a local/state/national basis. Individual as well as group inquiries are welcome. Replies are not restricted based on race, sex or age.

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TO THE POINT

(Continued from page 6)

Tactical Response Association

The Tactical Response Association, an organization of professionals in the area of anti-/counter terrorism, is holding its 1989 International Conference on Terrorism and Violence from Sept. 30 to Oct. 4 in Kansas City. The conference will consist of more than 35 hours of seminars, workshops, symposium and meetings on such topics as initial response procedures to terrorist attacks, hostage negotiations, intelligence, bomb detection and disposal, and many more operations. For more information, write to: Tactical Response Association International, 7130 Village Drive, P.O. Box 8413, Prairie Village, KS 66208; or call (913) 432-5856. ●

Carl H. Yaeger
conference coordinator

Gun Bans, Registration

I believe a comment is necessary on a letter to Mail Call in the June 1989 issue of ASG. Where have people been for the last couple of decades? Gun registration is already being accomplished under the guise of regulations for "licensed dealers" and as "tax records." The BATF and the IRS have been requiring gun shops and dealers to record all transaction data (owners, weapons, sales, trades, service, repairs, etc.) for some time now. Big Brother is one step ahead of most of us.

Donald M. Smith
Canonsburg, Pennsylvania

In light of the new anti-assault weapon law in California which bans advertising of these weapons, do you have any plans to sue the State of California for infringing on your right of free speech?

Leon Canziani
Garden Grove, California

We understand the advertising prohibition may be one aspect of the gun ban law which the NRA will be contesting in its planned lawsuit next year when the law takes effect. We are studying the law and are in contact with the NRA about this matter. We will keep readers advised of any action taken. ●

Inner City Gardening

I very much enjoyed Ragnar Benson's article in the May issue of ASG on gardening in the inner city. For many years city people who practice self sufficiency have been growing gardens, raising bees and rabbits. There are two other vegetables which are well adapted to city gardening: the Jerusalem Artichoke or Sunchoke (*Helianthus tuberosus*) and the common Day Lilly (*Hemorocallis fulva*). The benefits of these plants are that they are not immediately identifiable as having edible tubers and the tubers can stay in the ground to be harvested any time of the year. Besides Benson's informative books and articles, I've found Euell Gibbon's *Stalking the Wild Asparagus* and Lee Allen Peterson's *A Field Guide to Edible Wild Plants* are very good guides for the city gardener who wishes to plant a tasty and nutritious yet secure garden.

C. Alan Loewen
Baltimore, Maryland

Satan & Christ

I have been a regular reader of ASG for years and I am usually pleased with the accuracy of your articles. However, Carl Yaeger's article on Satanism and terrorism (April 1989) contains an erroneous statement. It is not my intention to preach but it is not a belief of Christian theology that Jesus and Satan are brothers. According to Christian theology and its basis, the Bible, Jesus is the only begotten son of God. Satan on the other hand is a created being, an angel (known as Lucifer) until his fall from Heaven for rebelling against God, after which time he became known as Satan. That Jesus and Satan are brothers is a belief of Mormonism, not a teaching of the Bible.

Bruce Butler
Caldwell, Idaho

The article was not meant to imply that all Christians consider Christ and Satan brothers. It referred to a Satanic organization's "new theology of reconciliation" dealing with "the conflict and subsequent dualism between Christ and Satan." ●

President Pro Tem David Roberti, a Democrat from Hollywood, and by state Assemblyman Mike Roos of Los Angeles. Roos, a Democrat, has been described as one of the chief lieutenants of the Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, Democrat, of San Francisco, a power broker who has held his powerful position in the Legislature for decades. At one point Brown held a roll call vote on the gun-ban legislation open for six hours so members of the Assembly could fly in to Sacramento and cast their votes for it. All these people are vehemently anti-gun and represent the interests of the liberal-left.

I keep remembering the words of former state senator H. L. Richardson, founder of Gun Owners of California, speaking about the people behind the gun ban: "When it comes to tough law enforcement legislation, they're out there debating against it, usually taking the ACLU's position on these issues." He states that the legislators who pushed for the gun ban are "the very same people" who have opposed the death penalty, fought new prison construction, opposed lengthening prison sentences, rape legislation, child molestation legislation and pornography legislation. "They want to punish the innocent citizen for mere possession of a firearm but they seem to have little concern for the criminal." Are these people really the saviors and heroes they're being made out to be?

As is pointed out in the excellent new video tape, *The Assault On Semi-Automatic Firearms*, the real intent of the gun banners is to deprive the public of their firearms. These people hate guns of any kind and want them all banned. They are, I believe, frightened and threatened by an armed citizenry.

As Thomas Jefferson said: "The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government."

We in California are stuck, for now at least, with the nation's most harsh and restrictive gun control law. But this doesn't have to be a precedent for the rest of the nation. There's still time, if we organize and effectively oppose the anti-gun liberal-left, to stop the flood of anti-gun legislation in other states and in Congress — Jim Benson.

Four Tools for Living Off the Land

Utilize the environment to the fullest extent...

Photos by Dennis Ellington



The primary tools for living off the land are the foldup shovel, castnet, sweepnet and high-powered pellet rifle.

By T.R. Zimmermann

WHAT will happen when there is no food in the house and no money to buy any? Such despairing circumstances can lead a hungry man to desperate acts against society in order to feed his family.

Without the blessings of welfare and the help of charities, a large portion of our population would likely suffer the gnawing pains of hunger as experienced in other parts of the world. We too, could become a third world country, over-populated with starving people.

Pointing fingers and slinging accusations at the causes of starvation is not the answer. Instead, we should look around and take a lesson from reality. Our fate is in our hands.

Preparations must be made in advance. Stockpiling food while still plentiful and cheap is one way. Another

is small plot farming. Yet, these are short-termed at best, and may be too costly for some people. Also, farming can be subject to the whims of nature.

An alternative is to utilize the environment to the fullest extent by gathering. One of man's oldest avocations, gathering has helped to support many a family through trying times.

It begins by developing a general knowledge of all the wild edible plants that grow in your area, and how to harvest them. Each habitat (prairie, swamp, meadow, waterway, hillside, etc.) offers what it has available to those who know and can be the deciding factor between life or death.

In survival situations, it is far better to know all of your immediate surroundings and how to completely use them than to be familiar with only a few tasty wild fruits and nuts. Such plant-love may keep you from starvation.

The same principle applies to hunting wild game. The big game hunter

tends to seek out the prey he prefers, ignoring the smaller animals and insects that abound around him and offering nourishment. To him, they are pests and not worthy of his attention, for his sights are fixed upon the conditioned mental image of a well-cooked haunch of venison.

Specialization in certain foods is a foolish habit, leading down the road to extinction. Primitive man was omnivorous. This meant he would eat almost anything, and is one of the main reasons modern man stands where he is today.

You really do not need much to live off the land. Just good planning. Every family should have a collection of common gathering aids in the home and in the family car for emergencies.

Survival means having the proper tools on hand and the experience of knowing how to use them. A foldup shovel, a sweepnet, a castnet, and a pellet rifle are four tools for living off the land.

Used together, they are the tools needed for extracting sustenance from the earth's good bounties, permitting you to tap directly into the mainline of nature's food chains. Knowing how to do it is the first step to complete independence.

Foldup Shovel — There are over 185 different plants in the United States alone with easily procured edible roots. To name a few: common dock, thistle, cattails, sunflowers, nutgrass, greenbriars, dayflower, biscuit-root, yampa, morning-glories, etc. These can be found in almost every habitat and environment.

Wild root foods have more nutritional value than other wild foods with the exception of sugary fruits, nuts, and seeds. Containing mostly starch, fiber, complex sugars and trace organic compounds, they are always welcomed to balance out the menu.

The main attraction of wild root foods is year-round availability and easy extraction. They can be collected long after flowers, leaves, and stems have withered away. In winter, their stubs or husky remnants of dead stems may be seen above the snow.

Every species of wild root foods have their own unique flavor and texture. While some have unusual or strange tastes if eaten raw, most are perfectly delicious when used in prepared foods.

Once peeled to remove soil parasites and cooked, roots are good food. In fact, when combined with wild meats and supplemented by nuts, fruits, leaves, and seeds, you can thrive upon this natural diet.

The tool that aids in bringing forth wild root foods is the foldup shovel. A tightly constructed piece of well thought out machinery, it can be carried on the belt via a belt pouch.

Unfolded and locked into position, it can be put to use in a multitude of chores. Its sharpened outer edge allows hacking through woody roots and obstructions that may hamper work. It is the perfect tool for the mobile gatherer.

There are several ways of digging out wild root foods, such as levering, hoeing, large scale excavation, and slicing. Soil type determines which to use.

For example, in desert terrain the shovel blade is stomped into the hard ground next to the desired plant and the whole plant is levered out. Less energy is expended to retrieve the food source.

In soft mushy ground, the slicing technique works best as the soil is slightly turned to expose the densely matted roots and tubers. The wild root foods are picked out with relative ease and the soil returned to its former position.

To study how to recognize wild edible plants with useful roots, the following books are suggested: *The Wild Food Trailguide* by Alan Hall, published by Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, and *The Wild Edible Plants of Western North America* by Donald R. Kirk, published by Naturagraph Publishers, Inc. Also, each book describes the poisonous plants the gatherer may encounter.

To identify dried out remains of plants after the flowering and seed-making growth cycle is completed, the next book is highly recommended: *Pods: Wildflowers and Weeds in their Final Beauty* by Jane Embertson, published by Charles Scribner's Sons. This book has beautiful color pictures for

references.

Sweepnet — Insects are full of fats and proteins, and are the easiest to catch land animals. Abundant in late spring, summer, and into fall, insect catching is the simplest of all gathering activities.

Because they are so numerous, the grasshopper, cricket, and the katydid are the most desired insects. A single field or city lot may yield millions of edible insects.

Each insect has to be individually processed (beheaded and delimbed, including wings) before cooking together in a pan filled with hot coals. Toasted insects are eaten whole like popcorn or crushed into a powder for addition to soups, meatloaf, breads, and other prepared foods. A large harvest of insects could ensure enough food to see a family through a winter.

Insects have to be collected in vast quantities but without destroying the environment. Unlike the old method of burning the prairies, the modern day forager cannot afford such waste.

The best nondestructive tool to gather insects is the sweepnet. A simple device, it is composed of a muslin or mesh cloth sack sewn onto a metal rod hoop. The hoop is attached to a broomstick shaft. It can be made at home using hand tools, improvised in the field or bought at a science supply store.

A commercial dipnet can be removed from its metal hoop, and a cloth sack attached in its place, using safety pins. For simplicity, make sure the sack's depth is approximately 1½ feet deep.

The sweepnet is utilized exactly as its name implies, to sweep insects into the sack. This is done by either netting them from the air or by brushing vegetation.

Sweeping vegetation is similar to pushing sweeping a roughly knapped carpet. To do so, select an area of tall grass and weeds alive with insects. Grasp the shaft with net pointing down, broom fashion. Then vigorously sweep the net back and forth as you walk forward. With each sweep, several ounces of insects and broken vegetation is extracted.

It takes practice, but in some places such sweeping may result in hundreds of pounds of raw edible insect foods. Be sure to have plenty of plastic bags for transferring the bounty.

Our favorite insect food is the may fly. A beautiful insect with four large, delicate transparent wings held vertically at rest and long 2-3 inch tail



The belt-carried foldup shovel is the handiest tool for digging up wild root foods. Reference books are useful to determine edible plants.

streamers, it may be seen hovering in large numbers over water in late summer. With a short life span (six hours), the may fly spends its time mating in flight before falling into water to lay its eggs and die.

Dense swarms may locate above water, along shore lines or resting on bordering vegetation. Use the sweepnet to net them from the air, to sweep the weeds or to dip from the water. Try to gather as much as you can.

Eaten raw, cooked or toasted whole, the may fly has a sweetish nutty or marshmallow taste. Many fierce battles were once fought by river and lake dwelling Indians over who would have sole-gathering rights to the local may fly swarming grounds. One taste and you will understand their interest in the may fly.

Another tasty insect worthy of mention is the water skimmer. Shaped like flat, black almonds, it can be seen skimming along the surface of ponds, creeks, and bayous. Indeed, toasted water skimmers even taste like almonds or walnuts. They are considered a delicacy in China.

Castnet — Animals that live in water are relatively easier to catch than those that live on land. A pool of water



The castnet can be used to catch huge quantities of aquatic animals. A single cast may bring in a bucket full of food. Note the matador-like stance and method of holding the castnet prior to the cast.

Four Tools for Living Off the Land



The sweepnet is the easiest method of gathering insects for food. Vigorously sweeping side to side as you walk along will collect several pounds of insects.

is a complete world unto itself, teeming with life. An elaborate food chain maintains its existence.

With no more than a six-to-eight-foot diameter castnet weighing under five pounds, you can gather an abundance of water animals to make several decent meals. A single well-thrown toss of the net can bring forth a wide selection of aquatic plants and animals.

Depending upon the geographical location, a sample of these may include water-dwelling insects and their larvae, clams, snails, crayfish, freshwater shrimp, minnows, small pan fish, larger fish (gar, perch, catfish, bass, etc.), tadpoles, frogs, salamanders, water snakes, baby turtles, and other water-adapted land animals. Every cast brings in something different from the last.

Crayfish may be boiled whole or deshelled for frying in butter or cooking oil. Minnows are fried like herring or as sardines. A pound of minnows are more nutritious than a pound of salmon, and are much easier to catch.

The castnet is one of the quickest means of fishing without bait. It is far less damaging to the habitat than dynamiting, poisoning or electric cranking. A castnet permits the gatherer to work a small pond or waterway without unnecessary exposure. A dozen casts and you are off to other foraging tasks.

Castnets are sold at retail fishing and camping supply stores. More common in coastal fishing communities, they are utilized as a means of catch-

ing live animals for bait fishing.

The basic technique for throwing the castnet is easy to learn. Tie the loose end of the draw cord around one wrist. Take hold of the net's edge with the free hand, looping the draw cord in the other. Both hands support the castnet in preparation for the throw.

At waist level, the net should hang loosely and untangled as you adjust to its weight. Upon deciding where you want to cast the net, swing back the free-throwing hand and fling the net forcefully away in a wide arch, using a side arm motion.

The castnet's flight should be spinning and wide open. By the time it reaches the end of its trajectory over the target area, it will drop rapidly through the water. As it descends, everything within its confines is trapped.

Give the draw cord a sharp tug to close off the net. Swiftly pull the collapsed net and the trapped prey ashore for separation. Remove the catch, clear the trash, untangle the net and make ready for another try.

Pellet Gun —The last gathering tool is a highly velocity air rifle. It is used to hunt small animals such as lizards, snakes, birds, frogs, rodents, and other misnamed pest animals as may be found in any habitat. More numerous than larger game animals, there are fewer laws to control their taking.

The secretive pack rat, the fleet-footed rock lizard or the flighty, shrill-voiced sparrow may be minuscule in

size, but they are food. A basket of pesky ground squirrels or starlings will keep a family alive as well as any deer might, and are more plentiful.

Choose either a pneumatic pump or the single-stroke piston operated air rifle. There are two calibers, .177 and .22 bores. You will need at least 700 fps velocity with each pull of the trigger to reach targets out to 200 feet.

From personal experience, the writer's choice is the .177 caliber for its universal distribution, easily obtained pellets, and their low cost. The single-stroke piston type produces consistent power with less work. In a stressful situation, the single-stroke air rifle is more productive in game procuring than the cumbersome pump variety.

It takes all the skills of big game hunting to kill small elusive animals, and in dense underbrush, it is quite a challenge. A hooded front sight will bring the sight picture into immediate focus. An added rifle sling aids in relieving the hands for climbing or other preparations.

There are certain advantages to using a pellet rifle instead of a firearm, such as a .22 caliber rifle. They are the following: (1) Taking pint size game with a tiny pellet means there is more meat to eat. (2) Lower report will not spook the game and seldom alerts anyone else of your presence in contested ranges. (3) Constant hunting with a single-shot action encourages the one-shot, one-kill skill, a skill that can ride over into firearms during regular hunting seasons. (4) A pellet rifle lets the gatherer be ready for that perfect shot that always seems to present itself when you are busy doing some other task. With it, you will never really lack in meat foods.

In the desert, along the seashore, in the mountains, on the prairies, down in the valleys, and in the cities these four simplified ways of living off the land used together, have shown major success where applied. It is truly amazing how so much food can be gathered just by using them correctly.

With a pellet rifle and a sweepnet, the prepared survivor becomes the accomplished hunter. A castnet turns him instantly into the successful fisherman, and with the foldup shovel, he can revert to the role of first farmer.

These tools will give you that extra edge needed in hard times. Make sure your survival kit contains all four. ●

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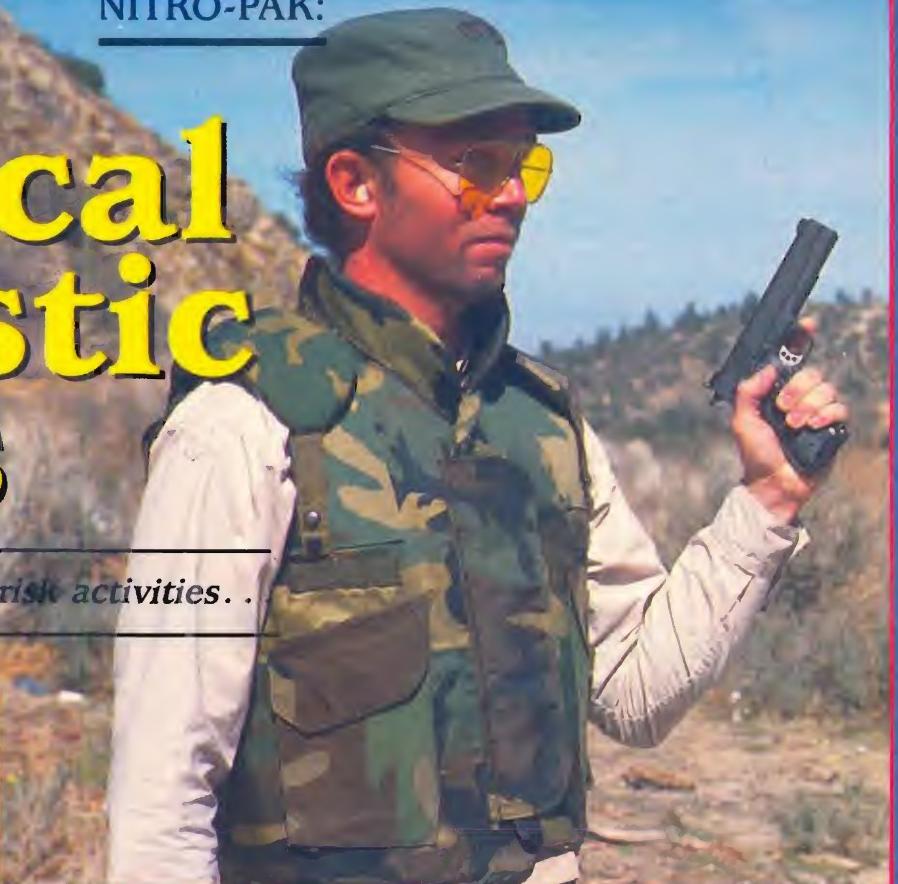
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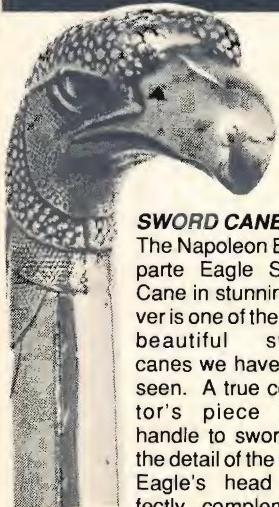
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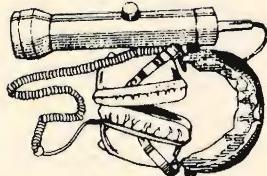


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